

# Fruits Basket™

SHOJO  
MANGA  
CLUB

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shojo manga  
in America!



18

MUSTARD MANGA

# Fruits Basket™

## Volume 18



Natsuki Takaya

# Fruits Basket™

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# STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda, and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, that person changes into his or her Zodiac animal!







## Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

## Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school, he's called "Prince Yuki."



## Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

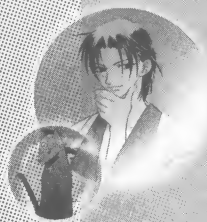
## Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



# Fruits Basket Characters

## Mabudachi Trio



### Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.

### Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



### Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.

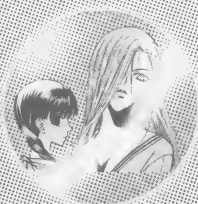


### Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

### Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



## Tohru's Best Friends



## Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.

## Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half German. He's older than he looks. His mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse. His little sister, Momo, has been kept from him most of her life.



## Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out. He was once in a relationship with Rin.



## Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.



# Fruits Basket Characters

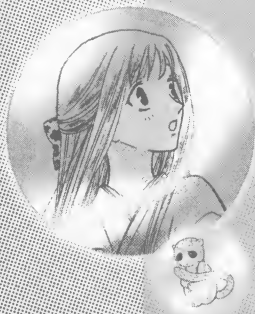
## Isuzu "Rin" Sohma, the Horse

She was once in a relationship with Hatsuharu (Haru)...and Tohru leaves her rather cold. Rin is full of pride, and she can't stand the amount of deference the other Sohma family members give Akito.



## Ritsu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy, kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this "she" is really a he!! Cross-dressing calms his nerves.



## Kureno Sohma, the Rooster (or bird)

He is Akito's very favorite, and spends almost all of his time on the Sohma estate, tending to Akito's every desire. Kureno was born possessed by the spirit of the Bird, but his curse broke long ago...which means we've never seen him transformed. He pities Akito's loneliness, and can't bring himself to leave her.

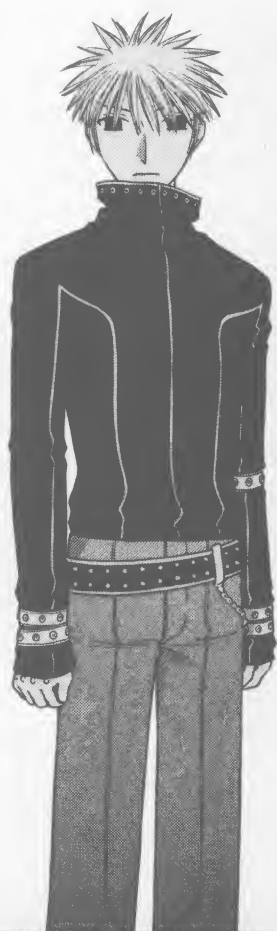


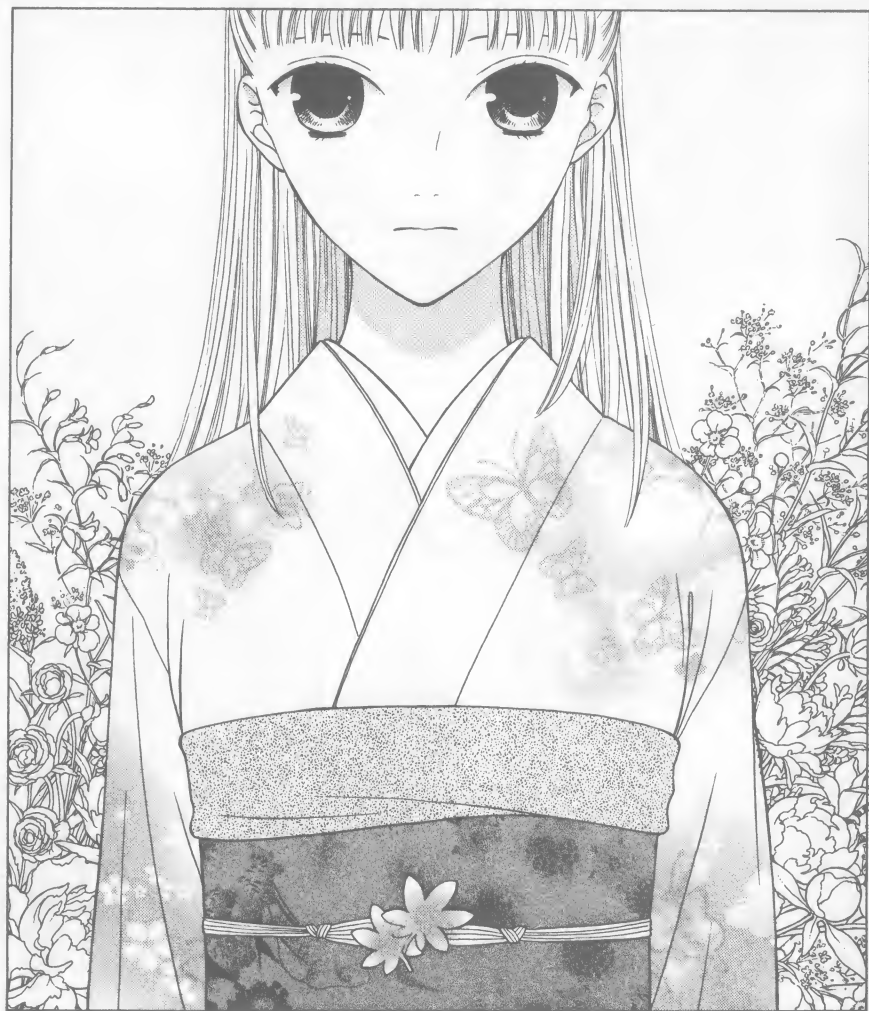
## Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence. It has recently been revealed that Akito is actually a woman!



"God"





Chapter 102

# Fruits Basket



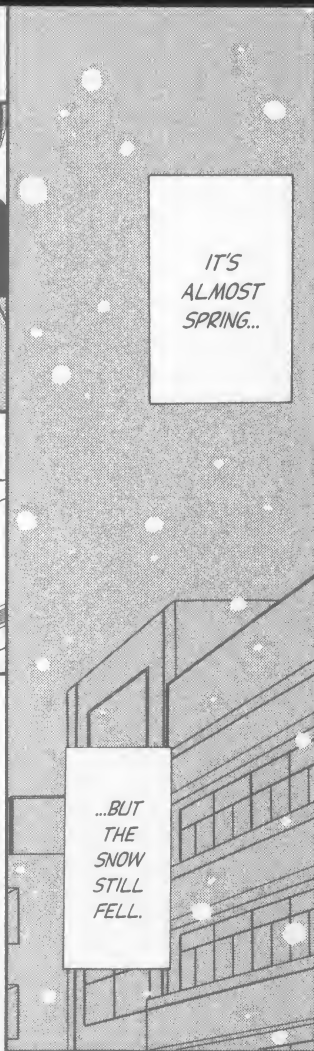


I HATE IT  
WHEN SNOW  
BUILDS UP.

ALL  
THAT WHITE,  
SPREAD OVER  
EVERYTHING...

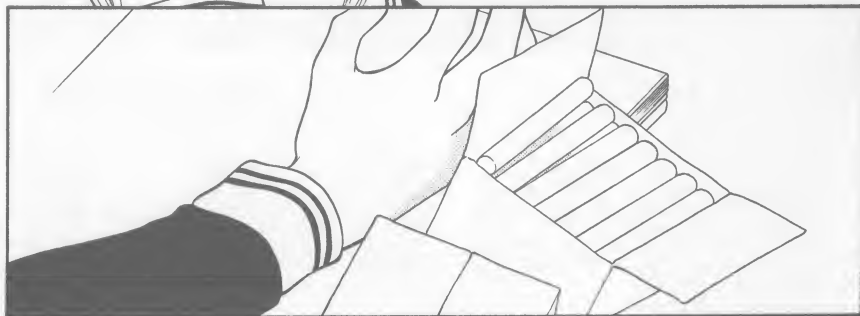


THE  
"PERFECTION"  
THAT EXPANDS  
UNDISTURBED.



IT'S  
ALMOST  
SPRING...

...BUT  
THE  
SNOW  
STILL  
FELL.





\*Student Council Room







Wait!

OR BETTER  
YET, A SKATING  
TOURNAMENT!  
WE'LL FREEZE  
THE HALLS AND  
HAVE RACES!

SWEET!  
AND I'LL  
NEVER  
LOSE!  
MWA  
HA HA!

CLASS  
AGAINST  
CLASS-NO,  
SCHOOL  
AGAINST  
SCHOOL!

WHEN THE  
SNOW GETS  
THICK ENOUGH,  
WE SHOULD  
HAVE A  
SNOWBALL  
FIGHT.

GUYS, SHUT UP  
AND LISTEN  
TO THIS  
IMPORTANT  
THING I HAVE  
TO SAY!

ONE-  
TWO  
TO THE  
GUT!

IT'S  
STUPID.

THAT'S  
STUPID!

EVERYONE,  
STOP HORSING  
AROUND AND  
GET BACK  
TO WORK!  
AND WHERE'S  
KURAGI?!

If you  
buy her a  
bag, Kimi  
will let  
you use  
her lap!

An  
expensive  
bag!

DON'T  
GO TO  
SLEEP.

MAN,  
NOW I'M  
DEPRESSED.  
I GUESS  
I'LL GO TO  
SLEEP.

## Fruits Basket 18

Nice to meet you and hello. This is Takaya speaking. Starting here, I'm going to try giving up handwritten columns. What do you think? Is it a little easier to read now...?

I apologize for always having such messy, tiny handwriting...

Anyway, I present to you Volume 18.

That was fast, huh?

The cover is Shishou-san. He's gotten pretty popular.

He's an overly fond parent. (laughs)

His over-fondness may actually come from his thoughts of, "As long as Kyo is happy, that's enough for me." (laughs)

Although I think he might be more motherly than fatherly.

At any rate, please enjoy Fruits 18.





I HEARD SHE  
GOT THROWN  
OUT OF  
HER HOUSE  
BECAUSE SHE  
TRIED TO KILL  
HER LITTLE  
BROTHER!



JUST A LITTLE  
WHILE AGO,  
KURAGI-SAN  
SMACKED A  
WHOLE BOX OF  
CHALK ONTO  
THE FLOOR.

*She  
said she  
wouldn't  
do that  
anymore.  
The girl  
lies.*

AGAIN?

TO BE  
HONEST,  
KURAGI-  
SAN  
SCARES  
ME.



YEAH!



I Don't  
believe  
that.

*Cynical!*

It can't  
be  
true...

Kimi will  
always  
believe  
in  
Machi...!



HUH?  
WHAT,  
WHAT?

KIMI NEVER  
HEARD  
ANYTHING  
LIKE THAT!

IT'S A  
RUMOR  
THAT'S  
BEEN GOING  
AROUND.

I BET  
IT'S  
TRUE!



AH!

KURAGI-SA...!

Uh-oh.

MACH!!

W  
H  
A  
T  
?  
you  
STOPPED  
BELIEVING  
IN HER  
ALREADY?!

It can't  
be. Kimi  
believed  
in  
you...!

KIMI'S  
TRUST IS  
WEAK.

SHE  
RAN  
AWAY.

DID YOU SEE  
THAT? SHE  
RAN AWAY  
BECAUSE IT'S  
TOTALLY  
TRUE!

IF YOU'RE  
DONE HERE,  
JUST GET  
OUT.  
You're in  
the way!



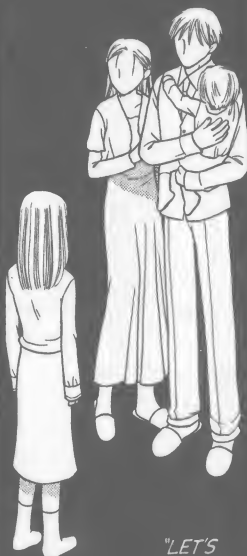
"YES, IT'S  
FOR YOUR  
OWN GOOD."

"I'M SURE  
YOU'LL DO  
BETTER ON  
YOUR OWN."



"YOU'VE  
ALWAYS BEEN  
JEALOUS OF  
HIM, HAVEN'T  
YOU?"

"I ALWAYS  
THOUGHT  
THAT MIGHT  
BE THE  
CASE."

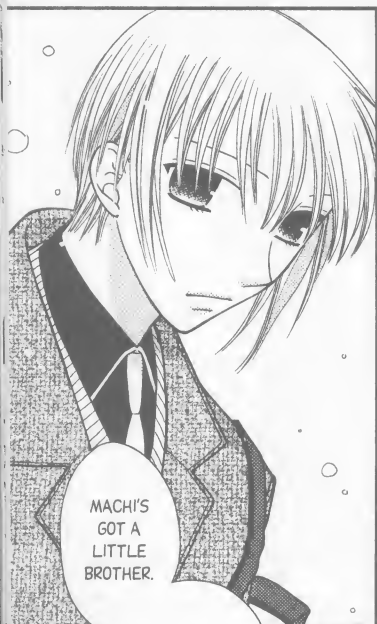


"LET'S  
PUT SOME  
DISTANCE  
BETWEEN  
YOU TWO."

"IT'S FOR  
YOUR OWN  
GOOD."



"I DON'T  
WANT TO  
HEAR YOUR  
EXCUSES."



MACHI'S  
GOT A  
LITTLE  
BROTHER.



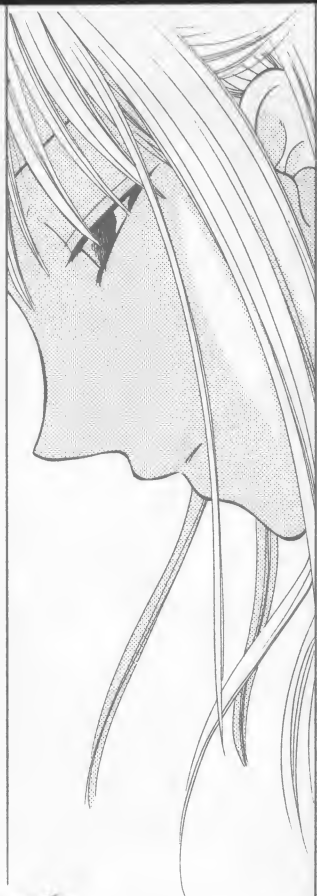
WELL...  
TO BE  
FAIR, HE'S  
HALF  
MINE, TOO.

THE  
TYKE'S  
A LOT  
YOUNGER  
THAN WE  
ARE.

EVERYONE'S  
ALREADY  
DECIDED  
THAT HE'S  
THE HEIR OF  
THE FAMILY.

IT'S  
ACTUALLY  
...

...PRETTY  
CLOSE  
TO THE  
TRUTH.



...Y'KNOW  
THAT  
STUFF  
THOSE  
GIRLS  
WERE  
SAYING?



ANYWAY.

I HEARD THAT FROM MY PARENTS, SO THE STORY MAY BE A LITTLE SKEWED.

WANNA TRY ASKING MACHI?



HUH?



UNBELIEVABLE, HUH?

BUT IT GOT OUT THAT MACHI WAS JEALOUS AND TRIED TO KILL HIM.

THEY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SAFER TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN HER AND HIM, SO THEY'RE MAKING HER LIVE BY HERSELF.



OH, RELAX. NOTHING'S GONNA BE AROUSED IN THAT ROOM!

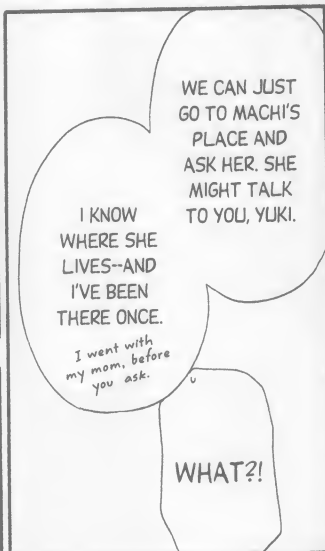
WE COULDN'T DO THAT! SHE LIVES BY HERSELF, DOESN'T SHE?

That's stu--

DON'T YOU DARE TAKE THIS CONVERSATION IN THAT DIRECTION!

OH, YEAH.

COME TO THINK OF IT...

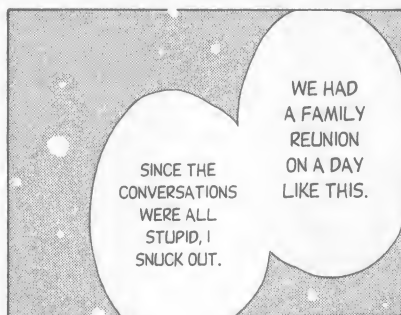


WE CAN JUST GO TO MACHI'S PLACE AND ASK HER. SHE MIGHT TALK TO YOU, YUKI.

I KNOW WHERE SHE LIVES--AND I'VE BEEN THERE ONCE.

*I went with my mom, before you ask.*

WHAT?!



SINCE THE  
CONVERSATIONS  
WERE ALL  
STUPID, I  
SNUCK OUT.

WE HAD  
A FAMILY  
REUNION  
ON A DAY  
LIKE THIS.



MACHI  
WAS  
OUTSIDE,  
TOO.



THE  
SNOW'S  
REALLY  
DEEP  
TODAY,  
TOO.

WOULD YOU  
PLEASE STOP  
CHANGING  
SUBJECTS?

*It's exhausting.*

WELL, I JUST  
REMEMBERED  
SOMETHING.



SHE WENT  
AROUND AND  
AROUND,  
NEVER SAYING  
A THING.

SHE WAS  
REALLY  
SERIOUS  
ABOUT IT.

I WONDERED  
WHAT SHE  
WAS UP  
TO. WHEN  
I LOOKED  
AGAIN...

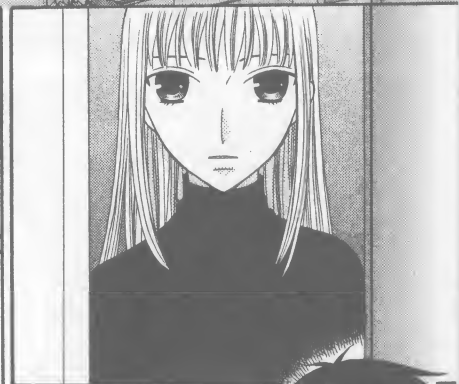
...I SAW  
SHE WAS  
WALKING  
AROUND  
AND MAKING  
FOOTPRINTS  
IN THE  
SNOW.



IT WAS  
SO...

I WONDER  
WHY SHE  
BOTHERED.









HOW WAS  
THAT MY  
FAULT?!

I WONDER  
IF THERE'S  
ANY MORE.



I WON'T,  
SINCE I'M  
NOT YOU.

DON'T DO  
ANYTHING  
PERVY,  
YUN-YUN!



ALL  
RIGHT.

BUT IT IS  
PRETTY  
DANGEROUS  
TO HAVE  
THINGS LIKE  
GLASS ON  
THE FLOOR.

ER, NO.

Tidying up  
isn't my strong  
suit, either.

DID YOU...  
COME ALL  
THE WAY  
HERE TO  
CLEAN?

I'M OFF  
TO TAKE  
OUT THE  
TRASH.



I DON'T  
CARE.



...PLEASE, DO  
WHATEVER  
YOU WANT.

YOU CAN  
BELIEVE  
IT.

OR DON'T.  
I DON'T  
CARE.



FINE.

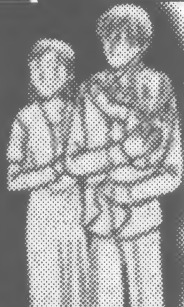
THEN YOU  
CAME TO  
ASK ABOUT  
WHAT THOSE  
GIRLS SAID.

THE  
ONES  
FROM  
MY  
CLASS.



...TO DO  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT  
IT NOW.

SO I  
WON'T  
TRY...



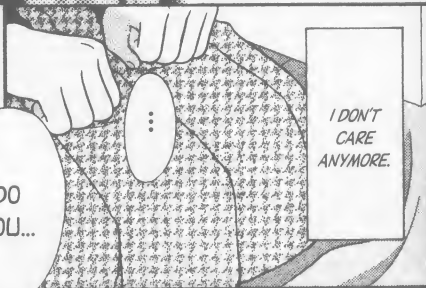
NOT  
EVEN MY  
PARENTS.

NO ONE  
BELIEVED  
ME.



...HATE  
THINGS  
THAT ARE  
IN ORDER,  
MACHI?

DO  
YOU...



I DON'T  
CARE  
ANYMORE.





I FELT  
LIKE...

...I WAS  
BEING  
THREATEN-  
ED.

I  
REMEMBER  
THOSE  
DAYS.



I COULDN'T  
BREATHE.



I  
COULDN'T  
STAND  
IT....!

...NERVOUS.

IF I  
HAD THE  
SLIGHTEST  
IMPERFEC-  
TION, I  
WOULD  
GET IN  
TROUBLE.



IT WAS LIKE  
I WAS BEING  
TOLD TO WALK  
A THIN, THIN  
THREAD.

"BE  
PERFECT"

"PERFECT  
AT ALL  
TIMES"

"A PERFECT  
CHARACTER,  
A PERFECT  
SCHOOL  
RECORD"

"IT'S THE  
ONLY WAY  
YOU'LL HAVE A  
CHANCE TO WIN  
AGAINST THAT  
WOMAN'S SON."

"EVEN YOUR  
FATHER WON'T  
ACKNOWLEDGE  
YOU."

I WAS  
ALWAYS  
...





...I WAS  
DESPERATE TO  
LIVE UP TO HER  
EXPECTATIONS.

BUT...

...WHEN,  
DESPITE  
THAT...

THERE  
WAS A  
TIME...



"YOU SEE,  
SHE HAS NO  
INDIVIDUALITY--  
SHE'S SUCH A  
DULL CHILD."

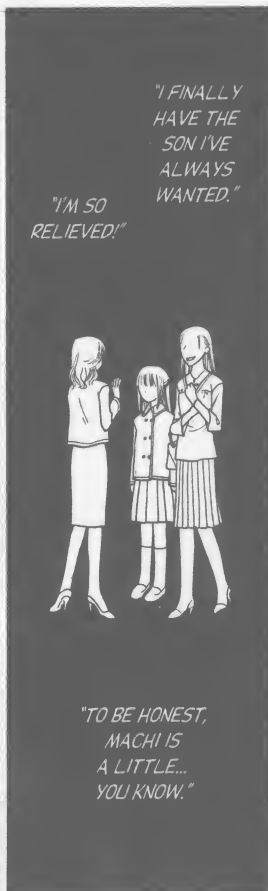


"SHE'S  
AVERAGE IN  
EVERYTHING,  
AND NOTHING  
ABOUT HER  
STANDS  
OUT."



"ALL SHE CAN  
DO IS STUDY.  
IT'S SUCH A  
WASTE."

"WHY?"



"I'M SO  
RELIEVED!"

"TO BE HONEST,  
MACHI IS  
A LITTLE...  
YOU KNOW."



BUT  
NOW...

...SHE  
HAS MY  
LITTLE  
BROTHER.



"THANK  
GOODNESS."



"YOU MAKE  
IT SOUND  
LIKE IT'S MY  
FAULT."



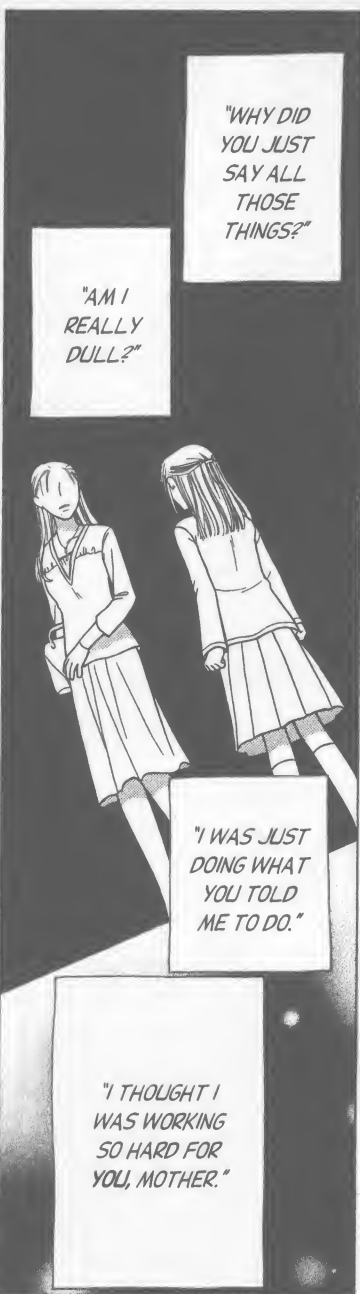
"WHEN YOU SAY  
IT THAT WAY,  
IT'S LIKE I DID  
SOMETHING  
WRONG."



"...HMPH."

"MAYBE  
THERE WAS  
SOMETHING  
WRONG WITH  
THE WAY I  
RAISED YOU."

"BUT IT  
MIGHT BE  
MY FAULT."



"WHY DID  
YOU JUST  
SAY ALL  
THOSE  
THINGS?"

"AM I  
REALLY  
DULL?"

"I WAS JUST  
DOING WHAT  
YOU TOLD  
ME TO DO."

"I THOUGHT I  
WAS WORKING  
SO HARD FOR  
YOU, MOTHER."





NO.



THAT  
WASN'T...



...WHAT I  
WANTED  
YOU TO SAY.



WHAT  
SHOULD  
I, THE  
"MISTAKE,"  
DO?



THAT'S  
NOT IT.

IF YOU  
SAY IT  
LIKE  
THAT...



WHAT CAN  
I DO?



...I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT  
TO DO.



WHERE...

...SHOULD  
I GO?

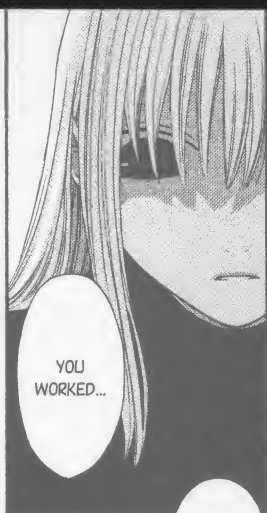
YOU'VE  
WORKED  
VERY  
HARD...

...HAVEN'T  
YOU?

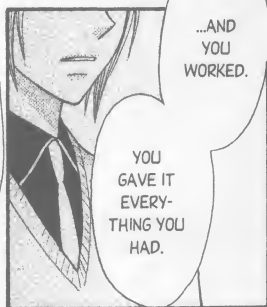


AND NOW THE  
MACHI I KNOW  
EXISTS ON  
THIS EARTH.

THAT  
MAKES  
ME  
HAPPY.



YOU  
WORKED...



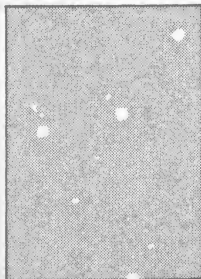
...AND  
YOU  
WORKED.

YOU  
GAVE IT  
EVERY-  
THING YOU  
HAD.



...

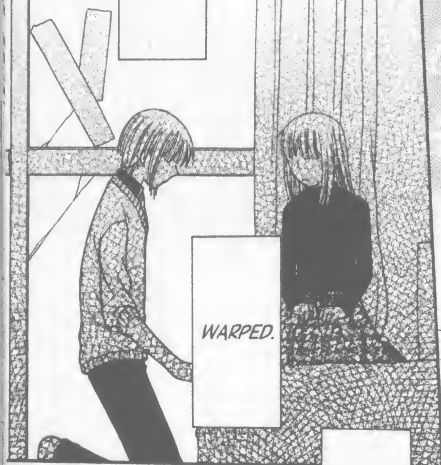
YOU REALLY  
GAVE IT  
EVERYTHING  
YOU HAD,  
DIDN'T YOU?





I'M...

IMPERFECT.



WARPED.

A  
WASTE.



AND YET...




I NEVER  
THOUGHT  
THE DAY  
WOULD  
COME.

I NEVER  
THOUGHT...

...I'D BE  
PRAISED.



THE DAY  
WHEN I'D BE  
PRAISED.



...THERE WAS  
SOMEONE WHO  
WOULD STILL  
PRAISE ME.



"WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?!"

I DIDN'T  
MEAN  
TO...!

I THOUGHT  
HE'D CATCH  
A COLD.

I WAS  
JUST...

...PUTTING  
A BLANKET  
ON HIM.


I WAS JUST  
TRYING TO  
COVER MY  
SLEEPING  
BROTHER.

...

I...

I  
THOUGHT  
HE MIGHT  
BE...

...COLD!



BUT I WAS  
NEVER  
JEALOUS...

...OF MY  
BABY  
BROTHER!

OKAY...

BUT...

*I DON'T WANT  
TO HEAR YOUR  
EXCUSES*

*I ALWAYS  
THOUGHT  
THAT MIGHT  
BE THE  
CASE*

THEY'D  
ALREADY  
DECIDED  
...

...ON  
HOW I  
FELT.

NOTHING  
COULD GET  
THROUGH  
TO THEM.





OKAY.



...MAKE  
FOOTPRINTS  
IN IT  
TOGETHER,  
ALL RIGHT?

IF THE  
SNOW KEEPS  
PILING UP...

...WE  
CAN...

LISTEN.

IF...

I  
PROMISE.





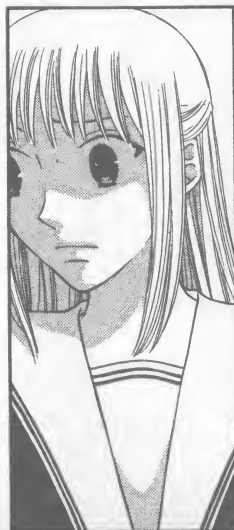


HEY-I  
GOT THE  
NEW  
CHALK  
FOR YOU.

Whisper  
Whisper



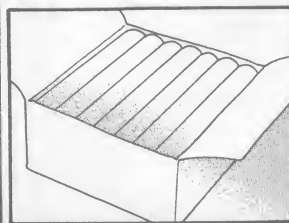
REALLY?!  
YAY!  
♡



BUT KIMI ISN'T IN  
CHARGE OF THE  
BLACKBOARD  
TODAY.

It's Nao-  
chan's turn.

push



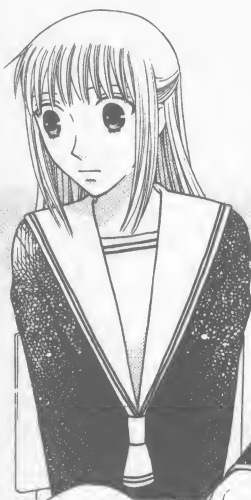
THE SNOW  
DIDN'T KEEP  
PILING UP  
AFTER THAT.

AND  
IN ONE  
NIGHT...

...IT ALL  
MELTED  
AWAY.

WOULD  
ANYONE  
ELSE  
LIKE TO  
COMMENT?





ALSO.

Snap

ABOUT CLUB  
ACTIVITIES  
DURING  
SPRING  
BREAK.

WE HAVE  
A LITTLE  
CORRECTION  
TO MAKE.

I WONDER.

...HE'LL  
WALK  
WITH ME.

I  
WONDER  
IF...

WILL HE  
REMEMBER?

UNTIL THE  
NEXT TIME  
IT SNOWS?

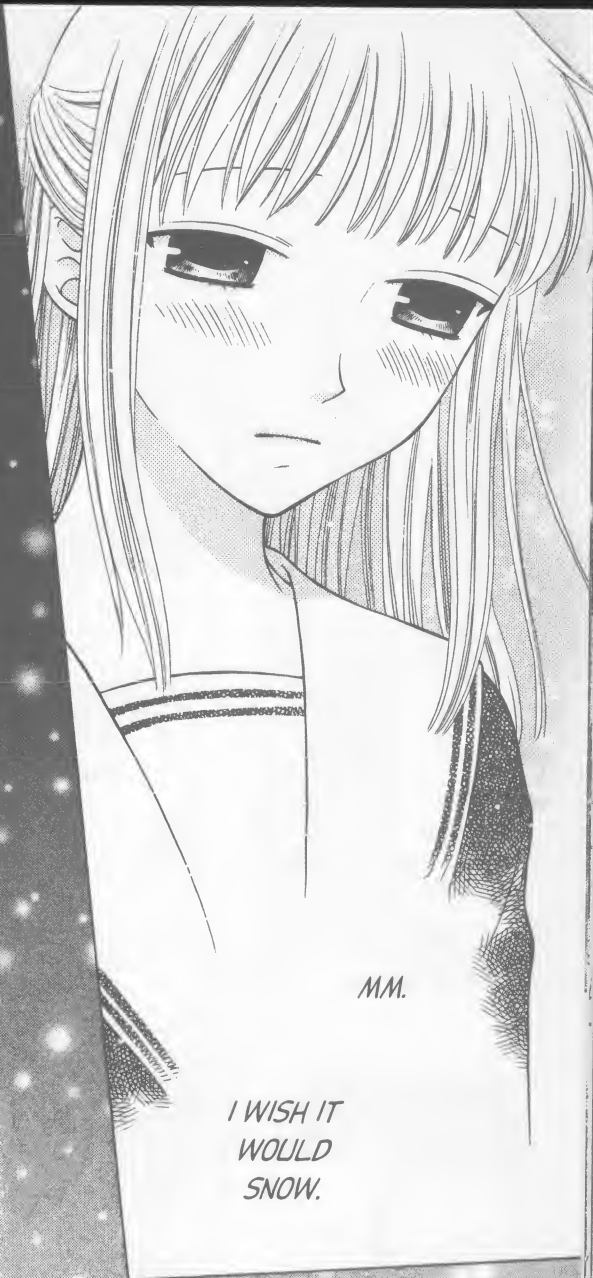
*I WISH IT  
WOULD  
PILE UP.*

*THAT WAS  
THE FIRST  
TIME...*

*...I  
ACTUALLY  
HOPED  
FOR IT.*

*MM.*

*I WISH IT  
WOULD  
SNOW.*



Filler  
Sketch







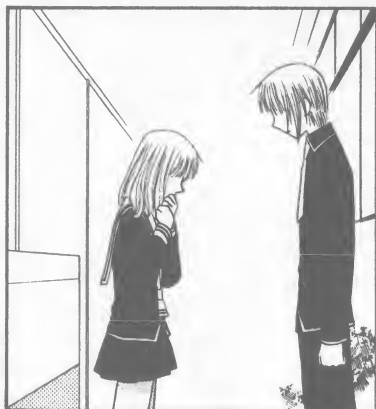
Chapter-103

Filler  
Sketch



The day she waited alone.





...I'M  
SORRY.

I'D BEEN  
THINKING  
ABOUT  
IT FOR  
A LONG  
TIME.



YOLI..

...THE  
ONE I  
LOVE.

WHAT DID  
I WANT TO  
GET ACROSS  
TO YOLI THE  
MOST?



BECAUSE  
WE WERE  
CLOSE TO  
HAVING  
TO SAY  
GOODBYE.

WHAT  
WAS  
IT?

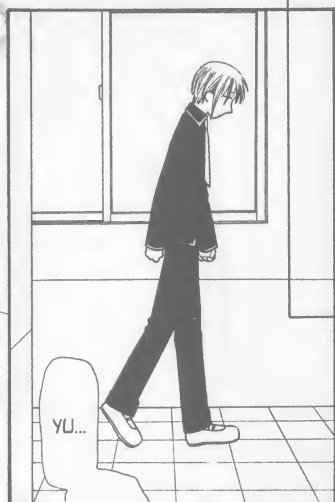




UM...

HOW  
DO YOU  
DO?

YUKI.



YU...



YUKI!!



Ahem.

ANYWAY.

I HAVE A  
FAVOR TO  
ASK YOU,  
YUKI. TODAY,  
AFTER  
SCHOOL...

I MEAN, WHEN  
YOU'RE DONE  
WITH YOUR  
STUDENT-  
COUNCIL  
BUSINESS AND  
EVERYTHING.



Oh!

Breaking  
Prince  
Yuki law.

MINAGAWA-  
SENPAI?!

WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING DOWN  
THERE? ARE  
YOU FEELING  
ALL RIGHT?



I'LL BE  
WAITING FOR  
YOU IN THE  
COURTYARD.

THERE'S  
SOMETHING I'D  
REALLY LIKE  
TO SPEAK WITH  
YOU ABOUT.

WILL YOU  
COME TO  
MEET ME?!



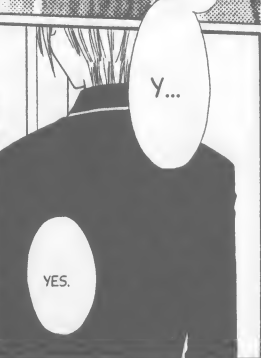
AND OF  
COURSE, YOU  
DON'T NEED TO  
WORRY ABOUT  
THE TIME.

*I have plenty  
of free time!*



OH!  
THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH,  
YUKI!

*す Stand*



Y...

YES.



WELL  
THEN.

I'LL BE  
WAITING,  
YUKI!



WHAT'S  
ALL THIS,  
YUN-YUN?

YOU'VE  
GOTTEN  
ANOTHER  
SUMMONS?

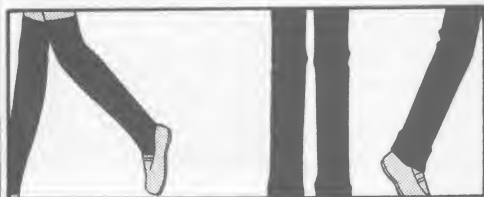
*But you're  
the princess.  
The nerve!*



THANKS.

041  
HOW DO  
YOU DO,  
MANABE-SAN,  
SAKURAGI-  
KUN?

GOOD LUCK  
WITH YOUR  
STUDENT-  
COUNCIL  
DUTIES.





I'm really sorry  
his appearances  
are being greatly  
reduced... (present  
progressive tense)

Ritsu 

\*With his father and mother,  
he's in a family of three.

\*As of Volume 18, he's grad-  
uated from college...right?

\*In Chapter 44, Shigure  
commented that he would  
be a member of society soon.  
I think. (Why do you have  
such little confidence?)

\*He's currently in training  
to inherit the inn.

\*I wonder if he'll be okay....

\*I mean, there aren't lady  
innkeepers, are there?  
(You can ask, but...)

\*That's why he's rarely at the  
main estate these days.

\*I wonder if it's a problem  
that Ritschan is so uninvolved  
with the problems occurring  
at the main estate? (laughs)

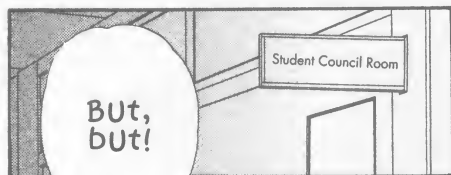
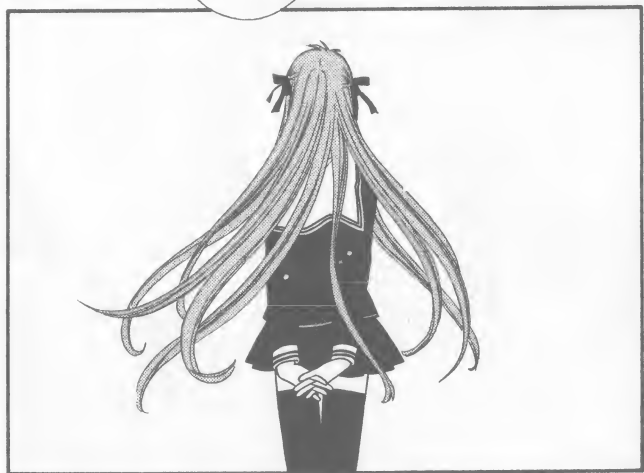
← To be continued



WHAT, YOU  
JUST FIGURED  
OUT NOW HOW  
SHE FEELS  
ABOUT YOU?

I'M SO...  
DENSE.

YOU'RE  
MORE THAN  
DENSE, MAN.



BUT,  
BUT!



It's  
really  
terrible!

AND THAT  
CONCLUDES THE  
REPORT FROM  
KIMI-SAN, WHO'S  
CURRENTLY  
WORN OUT FROM  
THE RUSH OF  
A LOVE  
CONFESSION.



YOU'VE HAD  
A GLOOMY  
FACE THIS  
WHOLE TIME!

YOU MUST BE  
HAVING A HARD  
TIME WITH ALL  
THE SUMMONS  
YOU'VE BEEN  
GETTING THE  
PAST FEW  
DAYS,  
YUN-YUN.



IT'S  
BECAUSE  
I CAN'T DO  
ANYTHING...

...



...BUT  
HURT  
THOSE  
GIRLS.



SHE KNOWS  
SHE DOESN'T  
HAVE A  
CHANCE,  
BUT SHE'S  
CONFESSING  
HER LOVE  
ANYWAY?

DON'T YOU  
THINK THAT'S  
SELFISH?

EH. SHE'LL  
FEEL BETTER  
ONCE SHE'S  
BEEN DUMPED,  
AND THEN SHE  
CAN HAVE  
PEOPLE FEEL  
BAD FOR  
HER.

I WISH THEY'D  
CONSIDER THE  
FEELINGS OF  
THOSE FORCED  
TO PLAY THOSE  
GAMES!

They make  
us feel like  
the bad  
guys.

ARE YOU  
JEALOUS  
OF YUKI'S  
POPULARITY  
BECAUSE  
YOU'RE  
UNPOPULAR  
YOURSELF?  
CHIBI!!

WHOOOA.  
WHAT'S  
ALL THIS,  
CHIBI?

STOP  
CALLING  
ME  
CHIBI!!

...BUT NO  
MATTER WHAT  
YOU DO, YOU'LL  
STILL BE AT  
THE TOP OF  
THE SOCIAL  
LADDER!

I HATE TO BREAK  
IT TO YOU,  
BUT IT'S ONLY  
FAIR THAT YOU  
SHOULDER THAT  
KIND OF KARMA.

YOU MAY  
HURT OTHER  
PEOPLE...

WE'RE NOT  
SAYING THAT,  
NAO-CHAN!

ARE YOU  
TRYING TO  
SAY THAT  
A MAN'S  
CHARM IS  
DETERMINED BY  
HIS HEIGHT?!

IT'S NOT  
YOUR HEIGHT  
OR YOUR  
FACE.

A MAN'S  
CHARM IS  
FROM...

IS THAT SO  
WRONG?!  
DO SHORT  
PEOPLE NOT  
HAVE A  
RIGHT TO  
EXIST?!

I DIDN'T...  
SAY  
ANYTHING.

You have  
a sister?

so I'M SHORT!  
so I HAVEN'T  
GOTTEN  
TALLER THAN  
MY SISTER!

Wham





COME TO  
THINK OF IT,  
NAO DID SAY  
YUN-YUN'S HIS  
"RIVAL" OR  
SOMETHING.

Aaaaah!

OH...HE  
DID SAY  
THAT.

AND THAT  
GIRL YOU  
LIKE...

!!

NAO-CHAN, YOU  
MUST HAVE  
A CRUSH ON  
SOME GIRL!

I  
got  
it!

SHE MUST BE  
IN LOVE WITH  
YUN-YUN. THAT  
WOULD MAKE  
YOU JEALOUS!

Right?!

WHA?!

THAT'S  
IT, ISN'T  
IT, NAO-  
CHAN?!

IS THAT  
TRUE,  
NAO-  
CHAN?

SO IT IS  
TRUE.

He's so  
obvious.

DASH

THE  
STUPID-  
ITY!



I GUESS NAO  
SEES YOU  
AS THE BAD  
GUY RIGHT  
NOW, YUKI.

YOU'RE NOT A  
"GOOD GUY,"  
AND NOTHING  
COULD MAKE  
YOU ONE. HE  
WON'T SEE YOU  
AS ANYTHING  
BUT A BAD GUY.



WHEN A GUY'S  
STARTED  
THINKING LIKE  
THAT, BELIEVE  
ME—NOTHING  
YOU CAN SAY  
COULD HELP.



THAT WENT  
REALLY  
BADLY. LEAVE  
HIM ALONE  
FOR A WHILE.

I WONDER  
WHICH GIRL  
NAO-CHAN  
LIKES!



What?  
Kakeru,  
are you  
jealous?  
Eek!

SO HE  
WON'T  
SEE  
ME...

What?  
Eek. Kimi!  
Are flowers  
blooming  
inside your  
head?



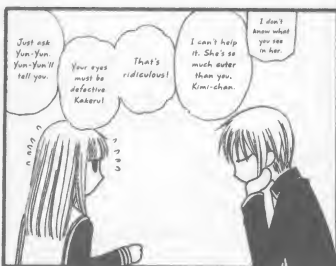
...AS  
ANYTHING  
BUT A BAD  
GUY...?



OH!  
COULD IT  
BE THAT  
NAO-CHAN  
LIKES...

...KIMI?

I'M PRETTY  
SURE IT'S  
NOT YOU,  
KIMI-CHAN.



WHEN  
THE DAY  
COMES...

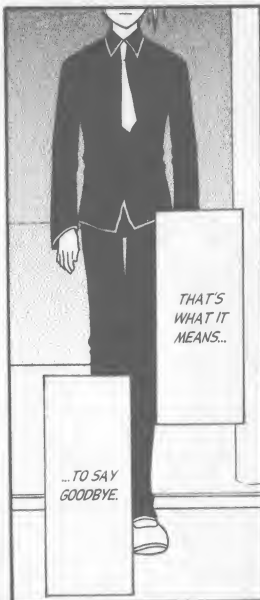
...AND I  
GRADUATE...

Don't pick  
on people  
who don't  
fight back.  
Kimi-chan.

No.  
Machi,  
are you  
okay?!

OOH...  
ARE YOU  
WORRIED  
ABOUT  
KIMI?

KIMI, DON'T  
DO THAT.  
SOMEONE'S  
GOING TO  
GET HURT!



THAT'S  
WHAT IT  
MEANS...

...TO SAY  
GOODBYE.



THAT'S  
WHAT IT  
MEANS TO  
GRADUATE.



BUT  
STILL.

I'LL, UM,  
GET RIGHT  
TO THE  
POINT.

PLEASE,  
DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT IT!  
I'M SO GLAD  
YOU CAME.

I'M SORRY  
I...KEPT YOU  
WAITING.

...MY PLACE  
IN THIS  
SCHOOL  
WILL  
DISAPPEAR.

THE HALLS,  
THE SHOE  
RACK, THE  
CLASSROOMS.

EVERYTHING  
THAT'S  
BECOME SO  
FAMILIAR...



...WILL  
BECOME  
SOMEONE  
ELSE'S  
PLACE.



WHAT I  
WANTED  
TO TELL  
YOU.

WHAT I  
NEEDED  
TO TELL  
YOU.

IN THE  
END...



I...I'M  
REALLY  
SORRY!

NOW THAT  
WE'RE  
ACTUALLY  
HERE...I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
TO SAY.

ISN'T THAT  
AWFUL?  
OH, WOW.

ALL THE  
THINGS I  
THOUGHT  
ABOUT.



AND I  
WON'T  
HAVE DONE  
A THING.



...I'LL JUST  
GRADUATE.



I'M GLAD  
TO HAVE...  
MET YOU,  
YUKI.

I...

I...



...



I LOVED  
YOU.

I REALLY  
DID.

THAT'S  
WHY...

BUT AT  
THE  
HEART OF  
IT ALL...

I'M GLAD  
I CAME  
HERE.

TO THIS  
SCHOOL,  
I MEAN.

EVERY DAY  
WAS AS  
EXCITING AS  
A FESTIVAL..  
I GOT ANGRY,  
I LAUGHED...

...YOU  
WERE  
ALWAYS  
THERE,  
YUKI.

...AND I KNOW  
I CAUSED  
A LOT OF  
PROBLEMS.







...FIND  
YOUR OWN  
HAPPINESS,  
AS WELL.

I'LL BE  
PRAYING.


I WANT  
YOU TO...



AN EVEN  
GREATER  
JOY.

AND IF THAT'S  
THE CASE, I'LL  
JUST PRAY  
THAT YOU'LL  
FIND MORE  
HAPPINESS.

MAYBE  
YOU'RE  
HAPPY  
NOW.



THIS IS  
THE ONLY  
WAY...

YOU GAVE  
ME THAT  
HAPPINESS,  
YUKI.

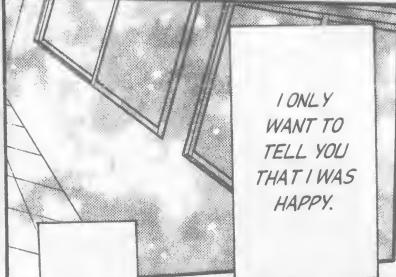
I'M SURE  
THAT THE  
DAYS I  
SPENT  
HERE...

...ARE WHAT  
THEY CALL  
"HAPPINESS."

...I CAN  
REPAY YOU,  
BUT...



THANK  
YOU.




I ONLY  
WANT TO  
TELL YOU  
THAT I WAS  
HAPPY.




I HAD  
SO  
MUCH  
FUN.




BUT  
I'M NOT  
STANDING  
HERE...



I WANT  
THEM TO  
REACH  
YOU.



...BECAUSE  
I WANT MY  
FEELINGS...



I TRULY  
AM GLAD I  
MET YOU.

PLEASE.

...TO BE  
ACCEPTED  
AT THIS  
POINT.

I KNOW  
IT'S TOO  
LATE.



LET THOSE  
FEELINGS  
REACH HIM.



YES.

THANK  
YOU...

...VERY  
MUCH.



I  
DON'T...



...DESERVE  
THOSE  
FEELINGS.



BUT  
YES.

WAIT,  
YUKI!!

Ack!

I'M  
SORRY.

I NEVER  
REALIZED...

CONTRARY TO  
EXPECTATION,  
THAT MAKES  
US EVEN.

THERE MIGHT  
BE SOMEONE  
WHO'S  
ALWAYS  
HAD AN  
UNREQUITED  
LOVE FOR M-

LIKE  
FORMER  
PRESIDENT  
TAKEI.

HE'S  
COMPLETELY  
OUT OF THE  
QUESTION!

HA  
HA.

I'M FEELING  
WONDERFUL  
FOR SOME  
REASON!

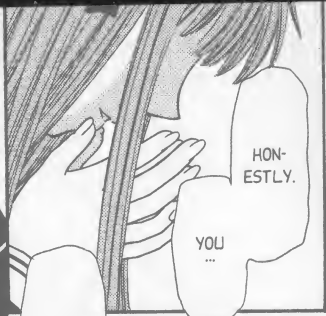
YOU WOULD  
SPOIL THAT  
IF YOU  
APOLOGIZED! IF  
YOU APOLOGIZE,  
I'LL CRY!

*I'll cry so  
hard!*

HUH?  
WHAT--?

BESIDES!





HON-  
ESTLY.

YOU  
...

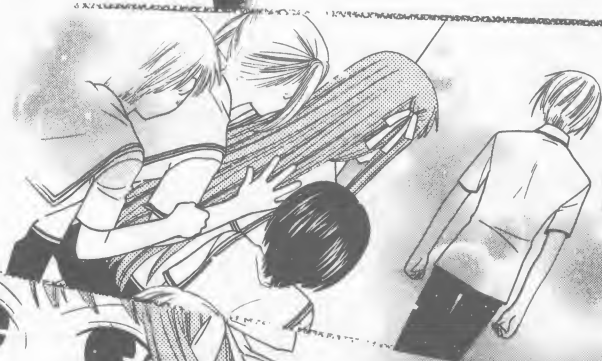


OH,  
YUKI...

.....



THANK  
YOU.





THANK  
YOU...





DO YOU  
REGRET  
LEAVING?

HEY.



I'LL GET  
GOING  
NOW.

MI...

MINAGAWA-  
SENPAI!

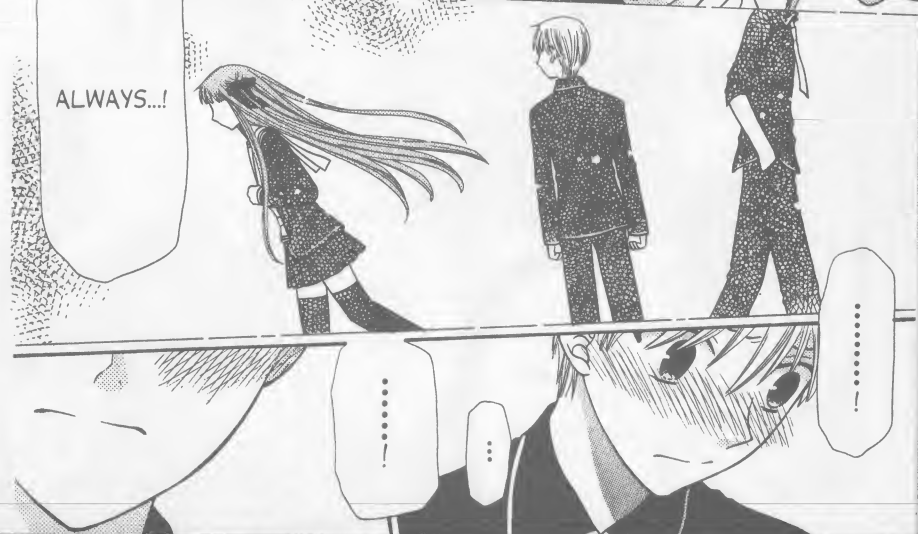


I'M SORRY--  
I JUST WANTED  
TO SEE THE  
CLASSROOM ONE  
LAST TIME.

YOU  
FOUND  
ME.









...YOU FIND  
SOMETHING  
NEW!

EVEN WHEN  
YOU LEAVE  
SOMETHING...



I'M  
HOPING  
FOR YOU.

EVEN  
AFTER YOU  
GRADUATE.

FROM  
NOW  
ON...



I HOPE  
YOU'LL BE  
OKAY.

I WANT YOU  
TO KEEP  
SMILING SO  
BRIGHTLY.



GO AHEAD  
AND SAY  
GOODBYE.

WHAT COMES  
NEXT IS  
"NICE TO  
MEET YOU!"

SO...



...

SAKURAGI-KUN.

ALL RIGHT.

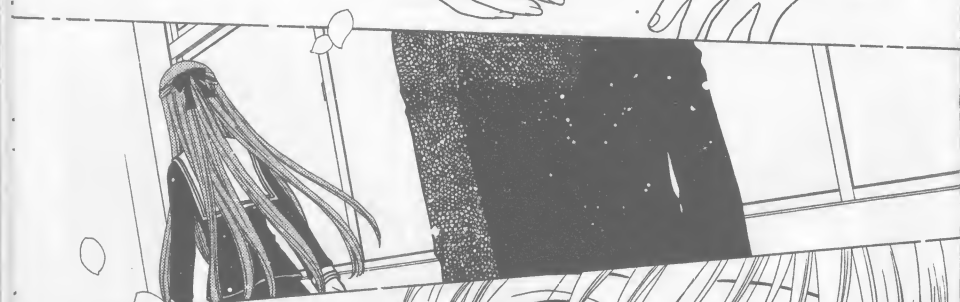


YOU TAKE CARE, TOO.



I'LL BE PRAYING.







OH,  
HEY.



NAO-CHAN'S  
HERE.



WHAT'S UP,  
NAO-CHAN?  
DIDJA COOL  
OFF YOUR  
MELON?

What's  
wrong  
with  
you?

MY MELON  
IS ALWAYS  
COOL!

MORE  
IMPORTANTLY,  
PRESIDENT--DID  
YOU FINISH ALL  
THAT WORK YOU  
HAD TO DO?!

OF COURSE.  
THANK YOU.

GOODBYE.



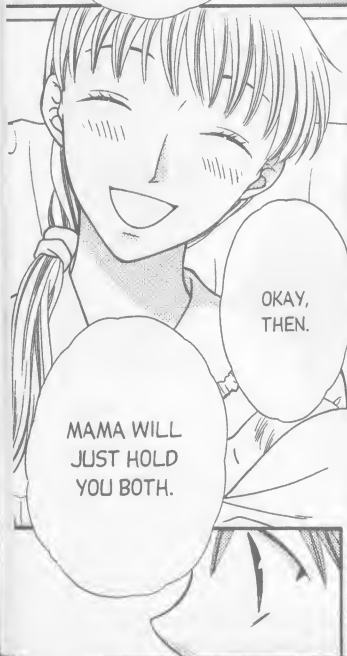
HIRO-CHAN IS  
NAMED AFTER  
A LIGHT ON THE  
PATH, SO YOUR  
SISTER CAN  
BE HINATA.\*

\*Hinata  
means  
"place in  
the sun."

HIRO AND  
HINATA! ISN'T  
THAT CUTE?

Your papa  
and I had to  
brainstorm  
on that.

HINATA-  
CHAAAAN...  
THIS IS YOUR  
BROTHER. HE'S  
GOING TO BE IN  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
THIS YEAR.



OKAY,  
THEN.

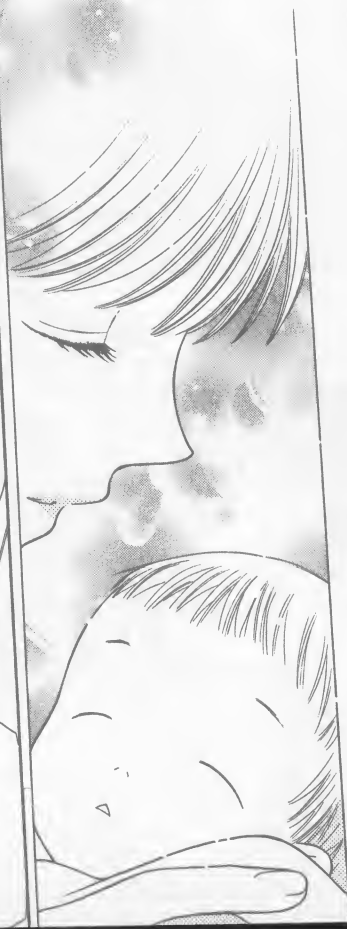
MAMA WILL  
JUST HOLD  
YOU BOTH.

HERE, HIRO-  
CHAN. WHY  
DON'T YOU  
HOLD HER?

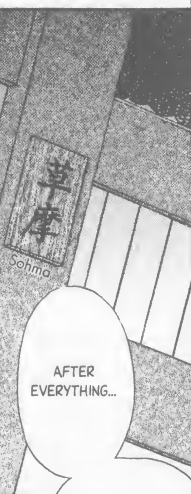
What?

I-I CAN'T  
DO THAT!

HINATA'S  
A GIRL!  
THAT'S NOT  
GONNA...



AND  
NICE TO  
MEET  
YOU.



AFTER  
EVERYTHING...



ISUZU  
GRADUATED  
HIGH SCHOOL  
WHILE SHE  
WAS IN THE  
HOSPITAL.

REALLY?  
WOW.



HEY...

.....

THANK  
YOU,  
SHII-CHAN.



AND YOU  
ACCEPTED HER  
DIPLOMA IN  
HER PLACE?

YOU'RE A  
SWEETHEART,  
KAGURA.





THAT'S  
WHAT I  
HEAR.

BUT NO ONE  
CAN TELL  
ME WHAT  
HOSPITAL  
SHE'S IN.



IS ISUZU  
REALLY  
IN THE  
HOSPITAL?



KAGURA.

OR  
HOW TO  
CONTACT  
HER.



OF  
COURSE  
SHE DID.

I  
JUST...

I'M  
AFRAID.



Y'KNOW?



DIDN'T  
YOUR  
MOTHER  
EVER TELL  
YOU...

...NOT  
TO POKE  
YOUR NOSE  
WHERE IT  
DOESN'T  
BELONG?

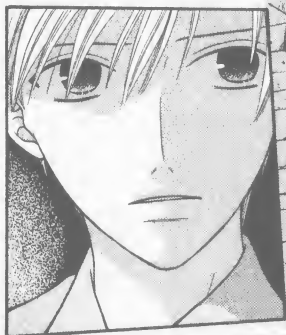
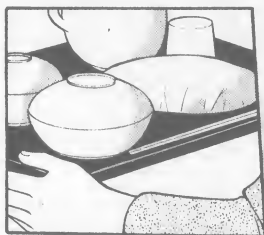


I'M  
AFRAID...

...SHE WON'T  
COME BACK.



## Chapter 104

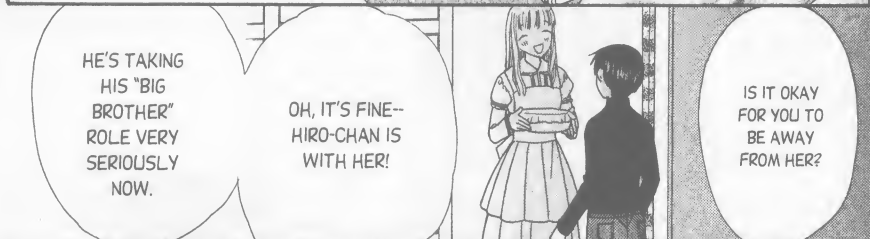




HINATA-  
CHAN IS A  
SUPERSTAR  
IN OUR  
HOUSE.

YES,  
THAT'S  
RIGHT.

IT'S A GIRL.  
PAPA AND  
HIRO AND I ARE  
SO HAPPY!



HE'S TAKING  
HIS "BIG  
BROTHER"  
ROLE VERY  
SERIOUSLY  
NOW.

OH, IT'S FINE--  
HIRO-CHAN IS  
WITH HER!

IS IT OKAY  
FOR YOU TO  
BE AWAY  
FROM HER?



HE'S SUCH  
A RELIABLE  
BOY.



HINATA-  
CHAN MIGHT  
DEVELOP  
A BROTHER  
COMPLEX.  
HA HA!



I DON'T  
KNOW.

IT SEEMS  
LIKE SHE'S  
STAYING  
THERE  
ESPECIALLY  
LONG THIS  
TIME.



I WANTED  
HER TO SEE  
HINATA-  
CHAN...

I HEAR SHE  
COULDN'T  
ATTEND HER  
HIGH-SCHOOL  
GRADUATION.

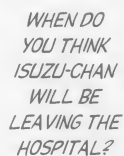


MM.

I'M  
WORRIED  
ABOUT  
ALL  
THIS.



COME TO  
THINK  
OF IT...



WHEN DO  
YOU THINK  
ISUZU-CHAN  
WILL BE  
LEAVING THE  
HOSPITAL?

Continued →

- It's not that I want to keep Ritchan out of the story--there's just nowhere for me to fit him in...

- When he was a boy, he had the Mabudachi trio to play with.


- He's also been friends with Kagura since they were little.

- Things are going well with him and Mitchan.

- Maybe Mitchan will be the lady innkeeper? I wonder if she'd be all right...



- I don't think there's any question--Hinata will probably develop a brother complex. (laughs)

Hiro. 

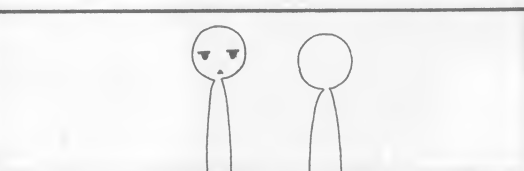
- With his father, mother, himself and Hinata (his little sister), he's in a family of four.

- He's become a first-year in middle school and gotten a bit taller.

← To be continued









NO. I DON'T  
THINK  
ANYONE  
DOES.

HUH?

YOU MEAN...  
YOU DON'T  
KNOW  
WHERE SHE  
IS? OR HER  
CONDITION?

BUT I DON'T  
REALLY...  
KNOW  
ANYTHING.



...



OH.



ARE YOU  
OKAY?

DID  
SOMETHING  
HAPPEN?

HARU...



Hey!

THE  
MYSTERY  
DEEPENS.

DON'T  
CALL IT A  
MYSTERY,  
OKAY?



.....



"I'M  
OKAY."



.....



...MORE  
PANICKED  
THAN  
THIS.

I GUESS I'D  
USUALLY  
BE...

YEAH.

UH...



MAYBE  
SOMETHING  
HAS BEEN  
WRONG.

WITH  
ME.



MAYBE  
SOMETHING'S  
WRONG  
WITH ME.

HUH.

HARU...?



IF THINGS  
GET REALLY  
HOPELESS...

...JUST  
COMFORT  
HER.

TELL  
HONDA-  
SAN  
THANK  
YOU.

HARU.

ANYWAY.

I'LL LET  
YOU KNOW  
IF I HEAR  
ANYTHING.

"...I'M  
OKAY."

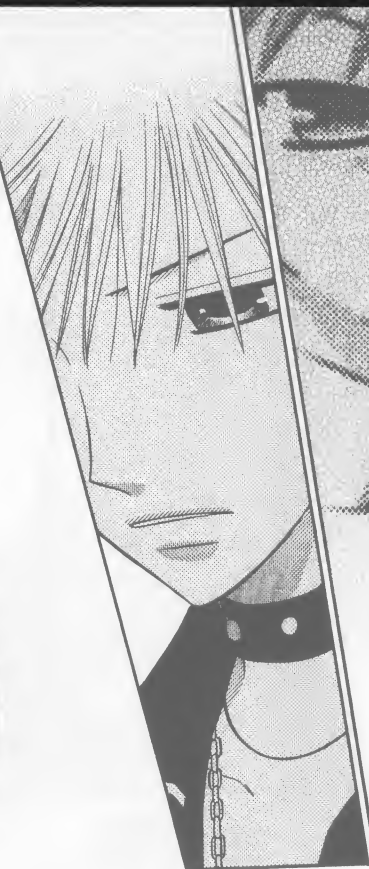
"YOU'RE  
HERE,  
HARU."

"SO  
IT'S...  
OKAY."

"...NEED  
YOU  
ANYMORE."

"I  
DON'T..."

"...THAT KINDNESS  
IS WHAT MADE  
RIN SO SAD."



"BUT I'M  
STARTING  
TO THINK..."



HIRO-  
CHAN!

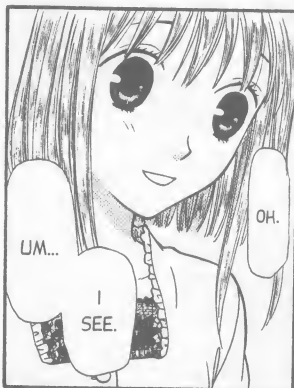
OH!





OH...  
I STOPPED  
BY KAGURA-  
NEE'S  
HOUSE.

I THOUGHT  
RIN MIGHT  
BE BACK.



UM...

I  
SEE.

OH.

IS EVERYTHING  
OKAY? YOU'RE  
STILL IN YOUR  
UNIFORM.

YEAH. I WAS  
JUST THINKING  
ABOUT  
VISITING  
YOUR HOUSE,  
HIRO-CHAN!

HUH?  
KISA.

YOU'RE  
HOME  
ALREADY?



Wow.

THANKS,  
I'M SURE  
SHE'LL  
LOVE IT.

IT'S FILLED  
WITH  
CHILDREN'S  
SONGS. DO YOU  
THINK SHE'LL  
UNDERSTAND  
THEM YET?



Yeah!

I WANTED  
TO GIVE  
HINATA-  
CHAN A CD.



SHE WASN'T  
BACK  
YET. BUT  
WHATEVER.

COME ON--YOU  
CAME TO SEE  
HINATA, RIGHT?

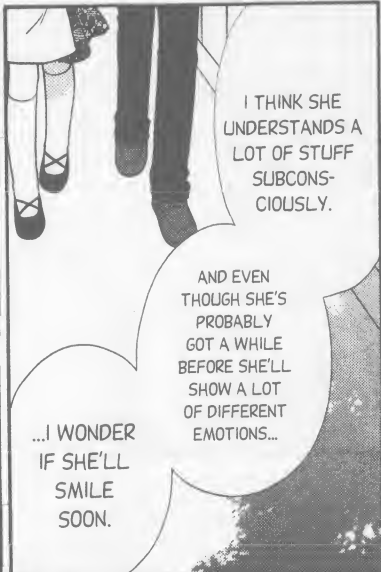


I DUNNO.

BUT...  
YEAH.

Hee  
hee.

WHEN SHE  
DOES, I THINK  
YOU'LL BE AN  
EVEN MORE  
RELIABLE BIG  
BROTHER.



I THINK SHE  
UNDERSTANDS A  
LOT OF STUFF  
SUBCONSCIOUSLY.

AND EVEN  
THOUGH SHE'S  
PROBABLY  
GOT A WHILE  
BEFORE SHE'LL  
SHOW A LOT  
OF DIFFERENT  
EMOTIONS...

...I WONDER  
IF SHE'LL  
SMILE  
SOON.



I  
WANNA  
BE.



Y'KNOW?

IT MAKES  
ME FEEL  
STUPID.

IT'S  
WEIRD.

BUT  
WHENEVER  
I SEE  
HINATA...



SHE'S  
RIGHT IN  
FRONT  
OF ME.

AND  
SHE'S  
STILL  
LIKE  
THAT.

AND IT'S  
RIGHT IN  
FRONT  
OF ME.

THERE'S  
A NEW  
LIFE IN MY  
HOUSE...

AND IT  
DOESN'T  
KNOW THE  
DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN  
GOOD AND  
EVIL.





AND  
STUPID,  
Y'KNOW?

THINGS  
LIKE  
VANITY AND  
FEAR...

IT  
MAKES  
ME  
WORRY.

ALL  
THE  
TIME.

IT MAKES  
ME FEEL  
SO SMALL.



AND  
I'M NOT  
THERE  
YET.

...WHO CAN  
REALLY  
PROTECT  
HER.

I WANNA  
BE  
SOMEONE...



LOOK.

I  
WANTED...



THAT'S  
WHY--

WELL, I GUESS  
NOT EXACTLY  
WHY, BUT  
STILL...

I HAVE TO  
TELL YOU  
SOMETHING,  
KISA.



...  
REALIZING  
THAT  
AGAIN.

YEAH.

I'M  
JUST...



...

DON'T TELL  
ME YOU'RE NOT  
PAYING MORE  
ATTENTION TO  
WHERE YOU'RE  
WALKING WHEN  
YOU'RE SO BIG.

Hang  
on..

ONII-  
CHAN.

SORRY.

...TO  
APOLO--

B  
u  
m  
p

OOPS.

HUH?  
OH.

IF YOU'RE  
LOOKING  
FOR RIN,  
SHE'S NOT  
BACK YET!

NEVER  
MIND.

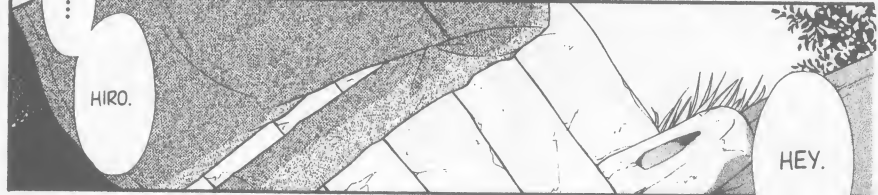
YOU GUYS  
HAVE  
GOTTEN  
BIG.

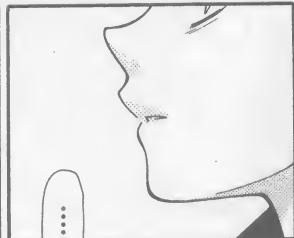
Both  
of you.

WAIT!

HEY!  
YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
WHO--

JUST  
WATCH  
WHERE  
YOU'RE  
GOING.







SHE  
WAS...

HARU-  
NII.

RIN  
WAS...

WHEN  
SHE GOT  
REALLY  
HURT...

...IT  
WASN'T AN  
ACCIDENT.

OKAY?

AKITO  
PUSHED  
HER OUT A  
WINDOW.  
  
FROM  
THE  
SECOND  
FLOOR.

AKITO  
FOUND  
OUT  
ABOUT  
YOU AND  
HER.

AND  
HE...

AND...!



KURENO-SAN?

...OH!

Whump



WHY ARE YOU BRINGING FOOD TO A PLACE THAT'S OFF-LIMITS?

WHO IS IT FOR?

HM?

I'VE SEEN YOU BRING FOOD HERE BEFORE.



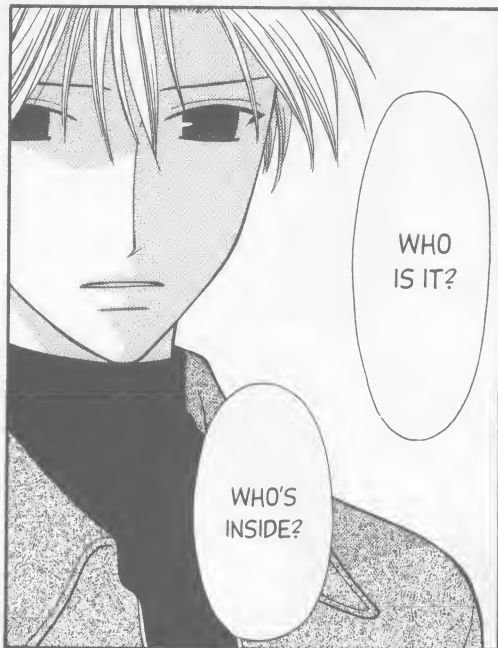
YOU...

UM.

YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.



IT'S OFF-LIMITS, ALL RIGHT?



WHO  
IS IT?

WHO'S  
INSIDE?



WHA...?

THIS  
PLACE.

IT'S AN  
ISOLATED  
AREA THAT  
ONLY CERTAIN  
"SPECIAL"  
PEOPLE CAN  
ENTER.

OTHERS AREN'T  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
ABLE TO GO IN,  
AND NORMALLY...  
THEY WOULDN'T  
WANT TO.



IF I D-DID  
SOMETHING  
TO MAKE  
HIM ANGRY...

WE'D BE  
ABAN-  
DONED!

M-MY  
FATHER...

HE WAS  
TAKEN  
SUCH GOOD  
CARE OF.

I-I CAN'T  
TELL YOU.  
I'LL GET IN  
TROUBLE.

IN  
TROUBLE?  
WITH  
WHOM?

I CAN'T  
TELL  
YOU.

I CAN'T  
TELL YOU!







I'M  
SORRY.

I  
JUST...

I'VE  
NEEDED TO  
APOLOGIZE.

ALL  
THIS  
TIME.



HE...  
HURT  
YOU.

I MADE  
AKITO  
MAD.

HE ENDED  
UP TAKING  
IT OUT ON  
YOU, KISA.




GO  
AHEAD.

I  
UNDERSTAND  
IF YOU'RE  
MAD AT ME.

I-I  
COULDN'T  
SAY  
ANYTHING.

BOTH OF  
THEM  
SWORE  
ME TO  
SECRECY.



YOU,  
TOO,  
HARU-  
NII.

I'M  
SORRY.



AND FROM  
HERSELF.

...RIN BROKE  
UP WITH  
YOU.

SHE'S...

SHE'S  
TRYING TO  
FREE YOU...

RIN  
IS...

THAT'S  
WHY...

...HARU-  
NII.

FROM  
AKITO.

SHE'S  
TRYING TO  
BREAK THE  
CURSE!



GIVE IT  
TO ME.

THE  
KEY.



...SHE'S  
GOING  
TO DIE!

...EATEN  
ANYTHING.

SHE  
HASN'T...

IN DAYS.

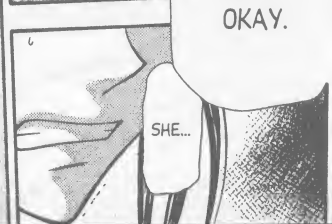
IF THIS  
KEEPS  
UP...



YOU CAN  
TELL  
THEM I  
FORCED  
YOU TO.



I'LL TELL  
THEM THE  
SAME.



THIS  
ISN'T  
OKAY.

SHE...



TELL HER  
IT'S OKAY.

SAY SHE'S  
DONE  
ENOUGH!

...RIN'S  
GONNA  
DESTROY  
HERSELF!

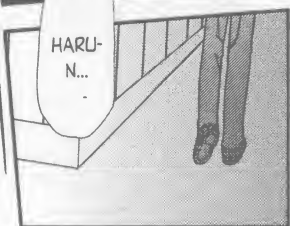
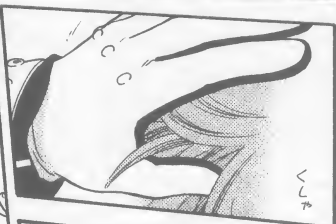
IF SHE  
KEEPS  
THIS UP...

PLEASE.

SHE'LL  
JUST KEEP  
SUFFERING.

HELP  
HER...!

ALONE!



...YOU  
WERE  
HURTING?

EVEN WHEN  
I WAS  
LAUGHING,  
HIRO-CHAN?

DEEP IN  
YOUR  
HEART...

THIS  
WHOLE  
TIME...?

HIRO-  
CHAN.

YOU  
WERE  
WORRIED  
THIS  
WHOLE  
TIME?

ABOUT  
MY...  
GETTING  
HURT?

I HAD NO  
IDEA!

I'M  
SORRY.

I WAS ONLY  
TH-THINKING  
ABOUT  
MYSELF.

I'M  
SORRY.



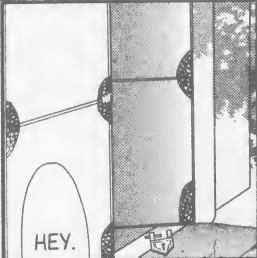




WHERE DO  
YOU THINK  
SHE IS  
RIGHT NOW?



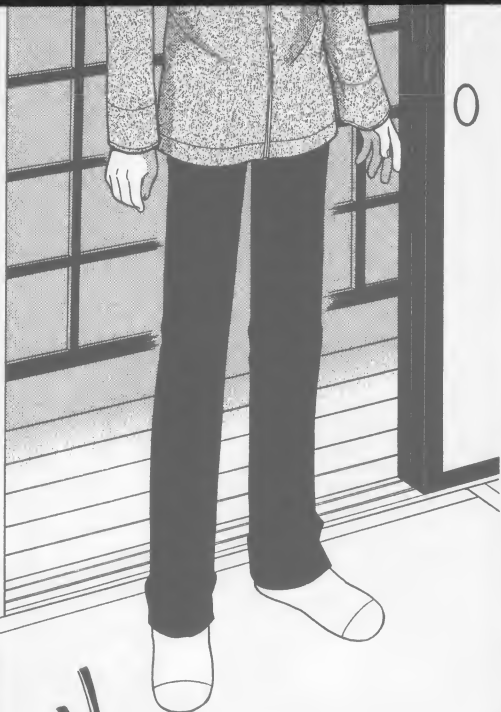
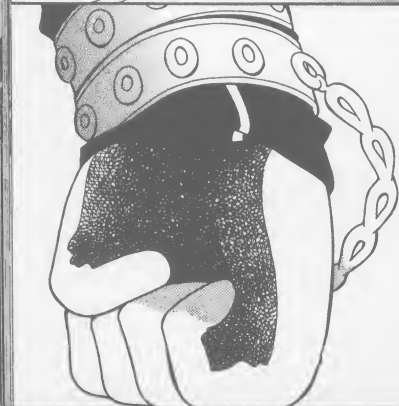
ABOUT  
ISUZU-  
ONEECHAN.



HEY.



HIRO-  
CHAN?





I JUST  
HOPE SHE...



...COMES  
BACK  
ALL  
RIGHT.



## Chapter 105

Filler  
Sketch



Kaguran having trouble with her hair.

"WHEN  
SHE GOT  
REALLY  
HURT."

"AKITO PUSHED  
HER OUT A  
WINDOW."

"FROM THE  
SECOND  
FLOOR."

"...IT  
WASN'T AN  
ACCIDENT."

HATSU HARU-  
SAN?!

WAIT,  
PLEASE! YOU  
CAN'T JUST--

"AKITO FOUND  
OUT ABOUT  
YOU AND HER."

"AND FROM  
HERSELF."

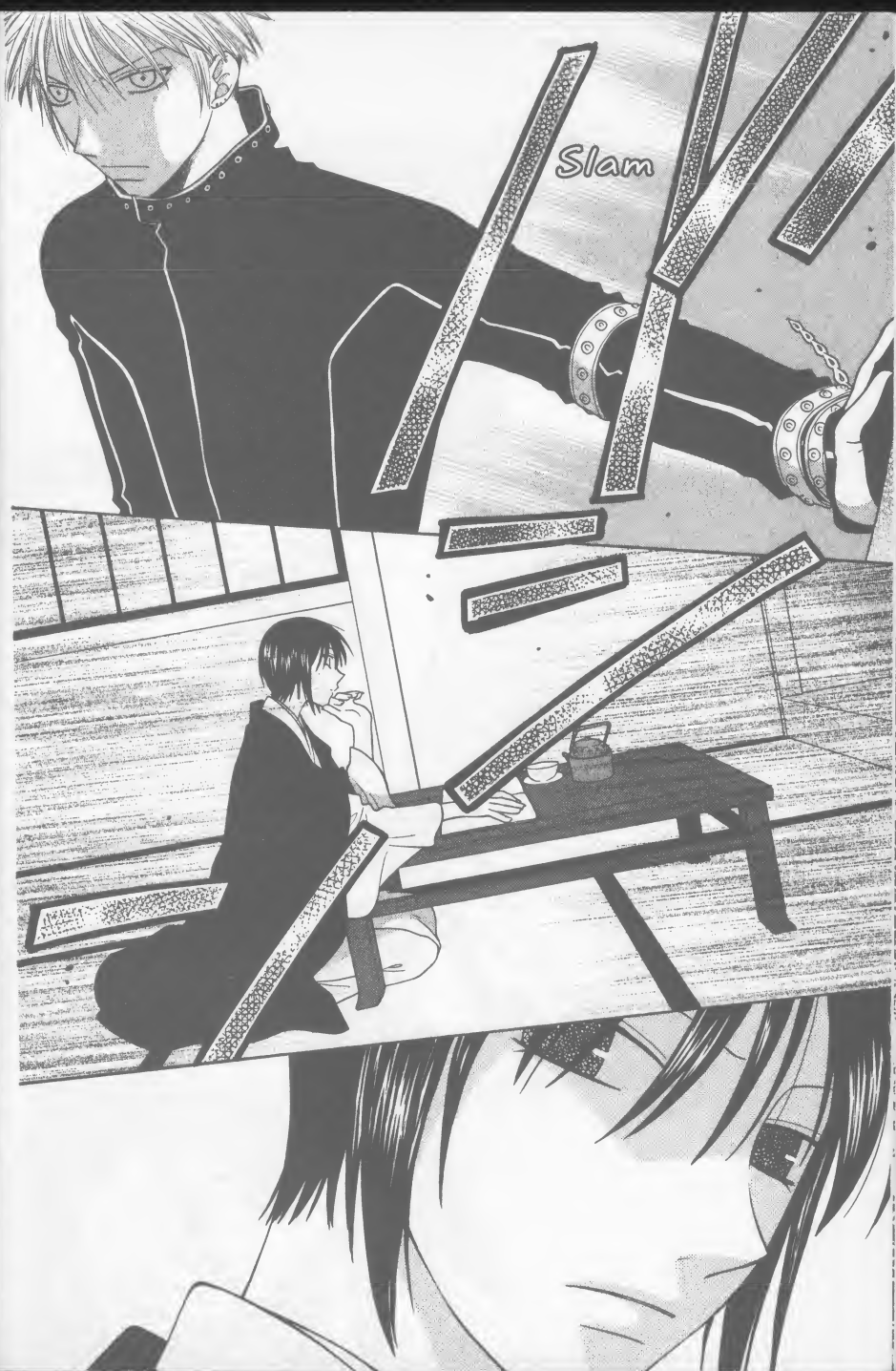
"SHE'S TRYING  
TO FREE YOU,  
HARU-NII."

"THAT'S WHY..."

"FROM  
AKITO."







14  
9  
14  
9  
14  
9  
7

HATSU-  
HARU-  
SAN!

WHAT'S  
ALL  
THIS?

WE UNDERSTAND  
THAT YOU'RE IN  
THE ZODIAC, BUT  
YOU CAN'T JUST  
BARGE IN HERE!

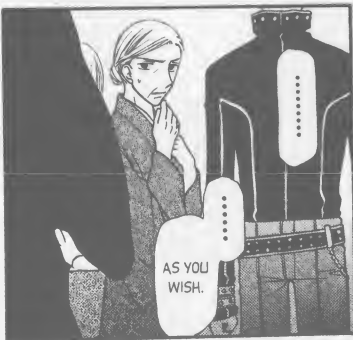
SHUT UP.

H...

HOW  
RUDE!

LEAVE  
HIM.

AND STAY  
OUT OF  
THIS, HAG.



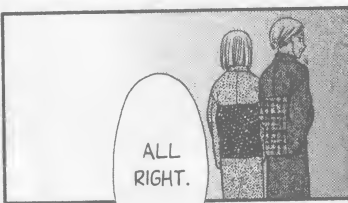
AS YOU  
WISH.



IT'S OKAY.  
HE CAN  
COME IN.

IT LOOKS  
LIKE  
HATSUHARU...

...HAS  
SOMETHING  
IMPORTANT TO  
TALK ABOUT.



ALL  
RIGHT.



WHAT  
IS IT?

WHY'D YOU  
PUSH RIN OUT  
A WINDOW?



WHY WOULD  
YOU DO  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT?



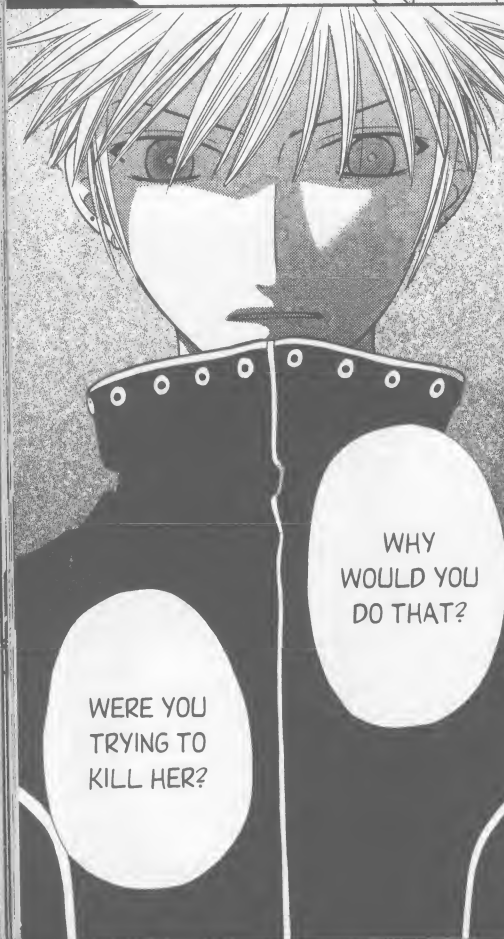
THAT'S  
NEWS  
TO ME.

WHAT?

WHO TOLD  
YOU THAT?

I PUSHED  
ISUZU?

I DID...  
WHAT?



WERE YOU  
TRYING TO  
KILL HER?

WHY  
WOULD YOU  
DO THAT?



HUH?

THE  
HEAVENS  
REVEALED  
IT.



DON'T  
LAUGH.

Pff...  
YOU NEVER  
CHANGE,  
DO YOU?  
HA HA!

YOU'RE AS  
DUMB AS  
EVER.



FINE.

HMPH.



YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN KIND TO HER.



DID YOU FEEL YOU COULDN'T LEAVE HER?

MAYBE IT WAS JUST PITY.



LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING, HATSUHARU.

WHY WOULD YOU GET SO ANGRY ABOUT ISUZU IN THE FIRST PLACE?

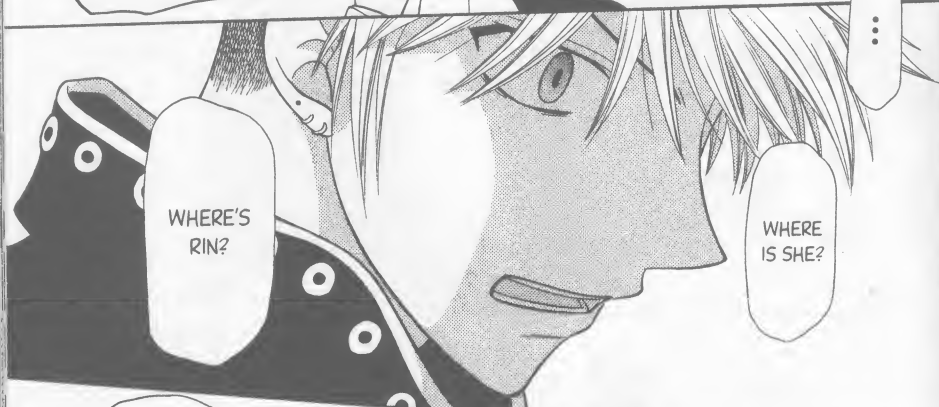
Wham



AND I KNOW  
YOU KNEW  
THAT!

BECAUSE I  
LOVE HER!

DON'T  
PRETEND  
YOU DIDN'T!




WHERE'S  
RIN?

WHERE  
IS SHE?

...

DON'T  
YOU?!

YOU  
KNOW.



YOU  
HAVE NO  
PROBLEM  
SAYING  
CRUEL  
THINGS.

...WERE  
ALWAYS  
COLD.




YOU  
KNOW  
WHERE  
SHE IS!


...THIS IS  
RIDICULOUS.

YOU DO  
CRUEL  
THINGS.

TO RIN. TO  
WOMEN.



WHERE DID  
YOU GET AN  
IDEA LIKE  
THAT?



IF YOU'RE  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE OUR  
MASTER...


I KNOW  
HOW  
MUCH  
YOU HATE  
THEM.

...YOU  
HAVE  
TO BE  
MORE--

YOU WERE  
COLD  
TO RIN.

SO YOU  
REALIZE  
ALL THAT,  
DO YOU?

TWICE AS  
MUCH AS  
ANYONE  
ELSE!



IF I WAS  
ALWAYS  
KIND TO  
HER...

THEN  
YOU...



Continued →

- Ever since Hiro saw his mother fall down a flight of stairs (from the very top) when he was in kindergarten, he's realized that he has to be strong and has been laboring in the shadows.
- His attitude toward Isuzu comes from knowing the circumstances-- because he happened to be there when it happened--but, more than that, seeing her hurt because of Akito makes him relate her situation to Kisa's.
- The person he looks up to most is Haru. (Haru has no idea.)
- The person he can't stand the most (excepting Akito) is actually Aaya. It's sad that I can't write about it in the main story. (laughs)
- He's currently worried because he can't find an opportunity to confess his love to Kisa. I feel like I've written almost everything about Hiro in the main story, so there's nothing for me to add...



Ahm.  
ahm.

As a  
bonus,  
here's  
Hinata-  
chan.



...LIKE  
"I LOVE  
RIN."

AND YET YOU  
STILL TELL  
ME THINGS...

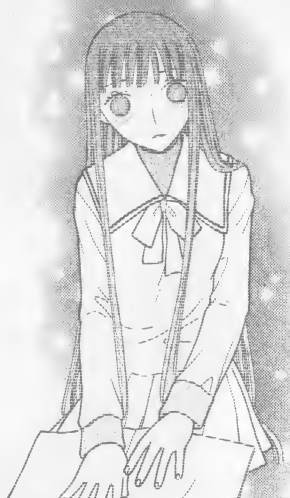
INTERESTING.



...THAT  
I HATE  
ISUZU.

EVEN  
THOUGH YOU  
KNEW...

RIGHT?



YOU TOLD  
ISUZU...

...THAT YOU  
LOVE HER,  
DIDN'T YOU?

"AKITO WILL  
GET MAD."

"NO."

EVEN THOUGH  
YOU KNEW?



YOU'RE SO  
OBSTINATE.

LOOK--  
I DON'T  
KNOW.

WHERE IS RIN  
RIGHT NOW?

WHERE IS  
SHE?!

WHERE  
DID YOU  
PUT HER?!

I JUST TOLD  
YOU--I DON'T  
KNOW!

GET HER  
OUT!

YOU ALWAYS  
MAKE  
EVERYTHING  
MY FAULT!

ISUZU...

*EVEN THOUGH...*

*...YOU  
KNEW.*

...WHERE  
IS SHE?

WHERE?



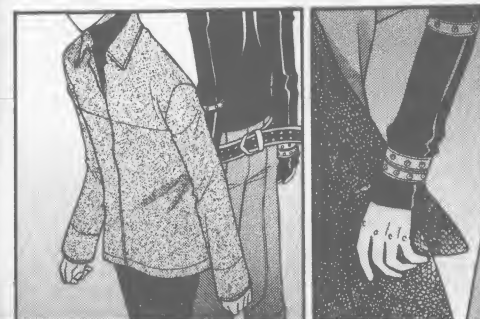
SHE WAS  
TAKEN  
TO THE  
HOSPITAL.



I WAS TOLD  
HER LIFE  
ISN'T IN  
DANGER.

SHE WAS  
GOING IN  
AND OUT OF  
CONSCIOUS-  
NESS.

BUT SHE'S  
OKAY.

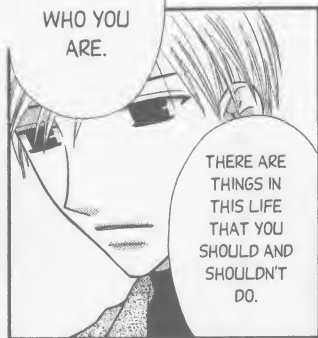


HATORI-  
NIISAN  
DROVE  
HER.

ALL  
RIGHT?



IT DOESN'T  
MATTER  
WHO YOU  
ARE.



THERE ARE  
THINGS IN  
THIS LIFE  
THAT YOU  
SHOULD AND  
SHOULDN'T  
DO.

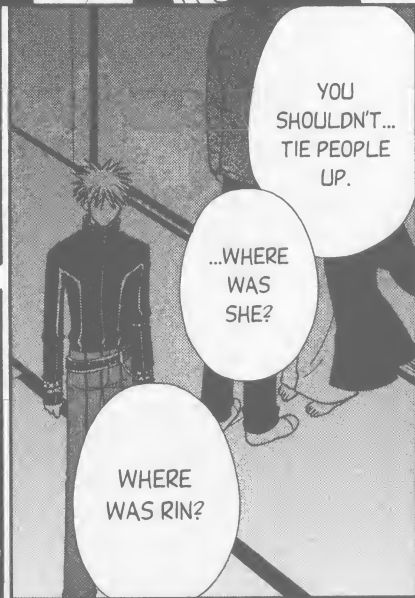


AKITO.

YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
DO THINGS  
LIKE THAT.



SHE...



YOU  
SHOULDN'T...  
TIE PEOPLE  
UP.

...WHERE  
WAS  
SHE?

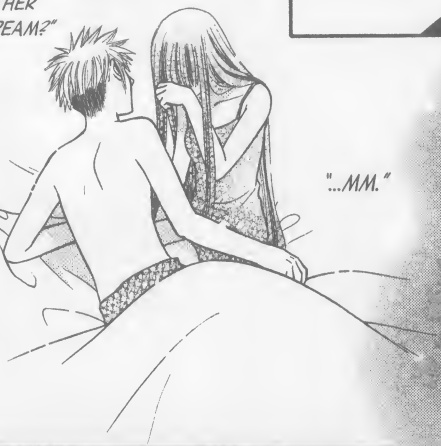
WHERE  
WAS RIN?



"RIN."



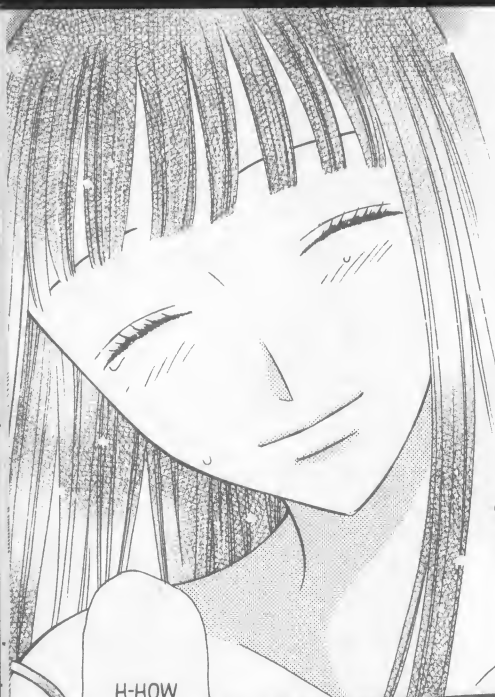
"DID YOU  
HAVE  
ANOTHER  
BAD DREAM?"



I UNDERSTAND  
SHE'S BEEN  
LOCKED UP  
INSIDE THERE.

SHE WAS IN  
THE CAT'S  
ISOLATED  
ROOM.

FOR A  
WHILE  
NOW.



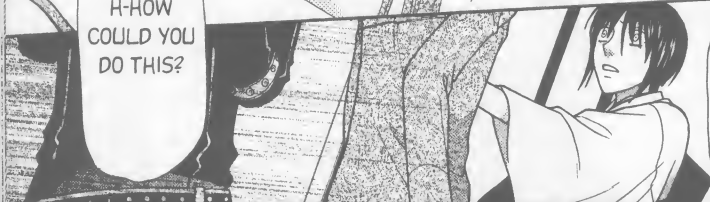
"YOU'RE  
HERE,  
HARU."

"BUT IT'S  
OKAY."

"...I'M  
OKAY."

"SO IT'S...  
OKAY."

H-HOW  
COULD YOU  
DO THIS?



WHY,  
KURENO?!

YOU  
JUST...



LISTEN.

NO, AKITO.  
THAT'S  
NOT IT.



...BETRAYING  
ME?!

ARE  
YOU...

HOW COULD  
YOU DO  
THIS?!





STOP  
SCREWING  
AROUND  
WITH ME!

YOU WERE  
LYING?! YOU  
LOCKED  
HER UP?!

HOW  
COULD YOU  
DO THAT?!


HATSU-  
HARU...!

WERE YOU  
TRYING TO  
KILL HER  
AGAIN?!

IT'S BECAUSE  
YOU CHOSE  
THAT DAMN  
WOMAN!

SO WHAT  
IF I AM?

NNGH.



A manga panel featuring a character with short, light-colored hair and a wide-eyed, open-mouthed expression of shock or fear. He is wearing a dark turtleneck under a light-colored, textured jacket. To his right, a large, close-up profile of another character's face is visible, showing a slight smile. A large, jagged speech bubble originates from the right character, containing the text. The background is filled with dynamic, swirling motion lines and several solid black circles of varying sizes.

YOU'RE THE  
ONE WHO  
PUT THE  
ROPE AROUND  
HER NECK!

!-UR  
AH  
SU  
AT  
H



THEY  
DIDN'T EVEN  
APOLOGIZE  
FOR WHAT  
THEY DID.

THEY WERE  
ATTACKERS,  
BUT THEY  
ACTED LIKE  
THE VICTIMS.

I COULDN'T  
FORGIVE THE  
ADULTS THAT  
TRAMPLED  
RN.



I ALWAYS  
REALLY  
LIKED HER.



I COULDN'T  
FORGIVE  
THEM.

THE WAY I  
FIRST FELT  
ABOUT HER.

IT'S...

...VAGUE  
NOW.



BUT I THINK  
I WAS  
ATTRACTED  
TO HER.

ALWAYS.



"EVEN  
THOUGH  
" ...



YEAH.

" ...  
YOU  
KNEW. "

WITH NO  
ONE'S  
HELP...

I WANTED  
TO PROTECT  
HER FROM  
THOSE  
WORTHLESS  
ADULTS.

JUST  
MINE.



SO I  
WANTED  
RIN...

...TO  
WANT  
ME, TOO.



IN A  
CORNER  
OF MY  
BRAIN.

I DID  
KNOW.

I  
KNEW.

I DID  
KNOW.

BUT I...



...I...



I KNEW  
WHERE  
AKITO  
WOULD  
DIRECT...



...I  
WANTED  
TO HAVE  
HER.

...HIS  
ATTACH-  
MENT,  
HIS RAGE.



I DID  
KNOW.

AN  
ALARM  
WAS  
GOING  
OFF...

...IN A  
CORNER  
OF MY  
BRAIN.

IT  
TOLD  
ME  
THAT.

THIS MIGHT  
BE PUTTING A  
ROPE AROUND  
RIN'S NECK.

MORE  
THAN I  
WANTED  
TO  
PROTECT  
HER.

I WANTED  
HER ALL TO  
MYSELF.

I JUST  
WANTED TO  
MAKE HER  
MINE AND  
MINE ALONE.

THE  
REASON I  
HESITATED.

I JUST  
DIDN'T  
WANT TO  
NOTICE.

ISNT  
THE  
TRUTH...

THE  
REASON  
I DIDN'T  
STEP IN.

WASN'T  
IT  
JUST...

...THAT  
I HAD A  
VAGUE  
IDEA...

...THE COST  
OF PUTTING  
MY WANTS  
BEFORE  
ANYTHING  
ELSE?

...THAT  
I WAS  
AFRAID TO  
REALIZE...

...  
OF WHY  
SHE GOT  
HURT SO  
BADLY?



...JUST  
LIKE  
THOSE  
ADULTS.



EVEN WITH  
ME THERE,  
SHE'S  
NOT THE  
SLIGHTEST  
BIT OKAY.



SOMETHING  
WAS WRONG  
WITH ME.

...AND  
SHE WAS  
GETTING  
HURT  
IN THE  
SHADOWS...

IF I WAS  
PRETENDING  
I DIDN'T  
KNOW...



...IT DOESN'T  
MATTER  
HOW MUCH  
I THOUGHT,  
"I LOVE HER.  
I LOVE HER."

IT'S  
ANYTHING  
BUT OKAY.



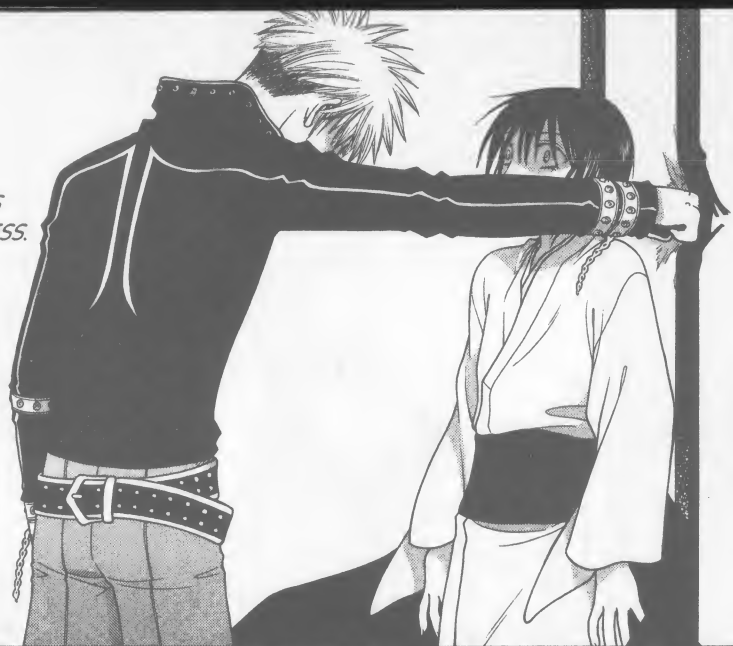
"YOU'RE  
HERE,  
HARU."

NO.

"SO IT'S...  
OKAY."



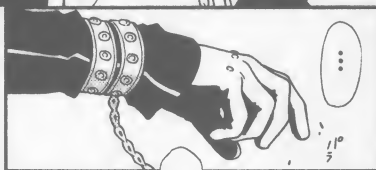
IT WAS  
WORTHLESS.



...AND  
MYSELF.

IT'LL  
MAKE  
ME  
WANT  
TO KILL  
YOU.

YOU...

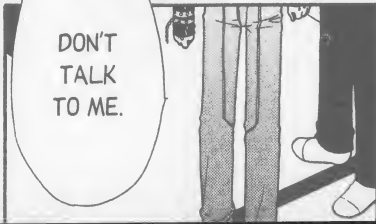


...



HA  
...

HATSUHA--



DON'T  
TALK  
TO ME.



DON'T GO,  
HATSU HARU!

HA...

HATSU HARU?

WAI...  
DON'T GO!

HATSU HARU!

"HATSU HARU."

"HATSU HARU."





GO.

AND  
DON'T  
COME  
BACK.

SO GO  
SEE  
ISUZU.

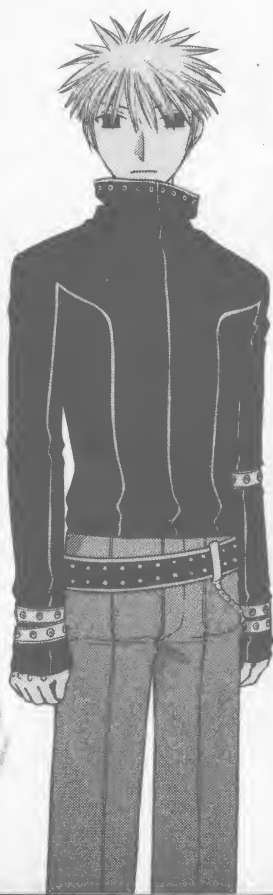
...YOU  
SHOULD  
BE  
ALLOWED  
TO SEE  
HER.

IN A  
FEW  
DAYS...

"HARU."

YOUR NAME  
WAS THE  
FIRST WORD  
THAT CAME  
OUT OF HER  
MOUTH.

"HARU..."

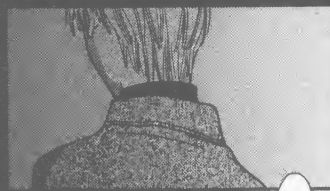


I'M SURE  
SHE  
WANTS  
TO SEE  
YOU, TOO.

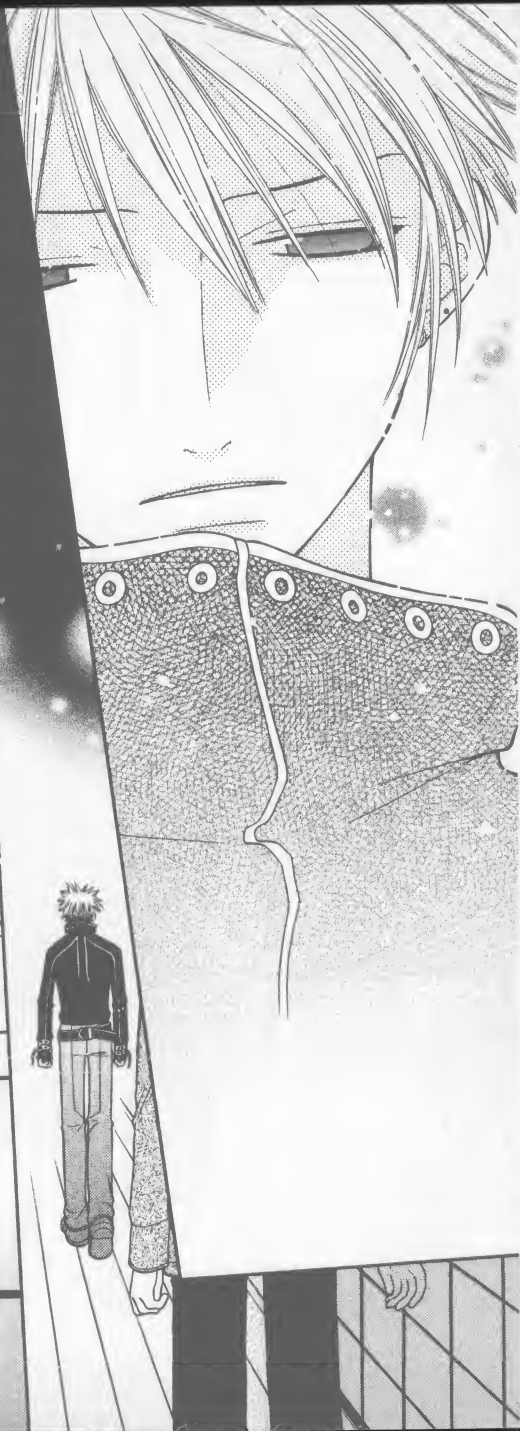


DO YOU  
KNOW  
WHY I  
THINK  
THAT?





...





BUT  
EVERYONE,  
SOMEDAY--

...IT'S NOT  
THAT WE  
WANT TO  
BETRAY  
YOU.

WH-  
WHY?

WHY DOES  
EVERYONE...

...TRY TO  
BETRAY  
ME...?

Wham

WHY  
ARE YOU  
BETRAYING  
ME?!

WHY?!  
WHY?!

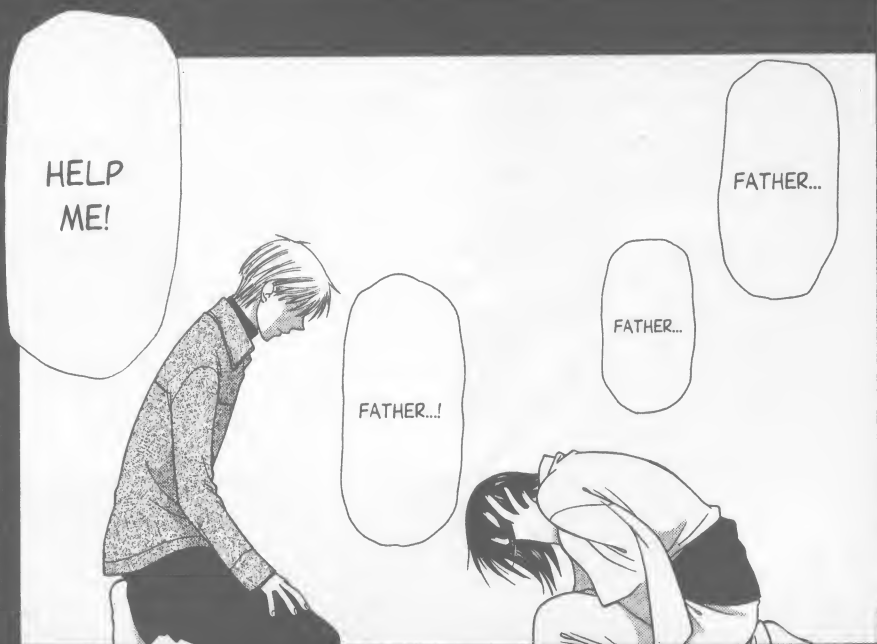
I WAS  
BORN TO  
BE LOVED!

...HE  
TOLD  
ME.

THAT'S  
WHAT...

THAT'S  
WHAT...

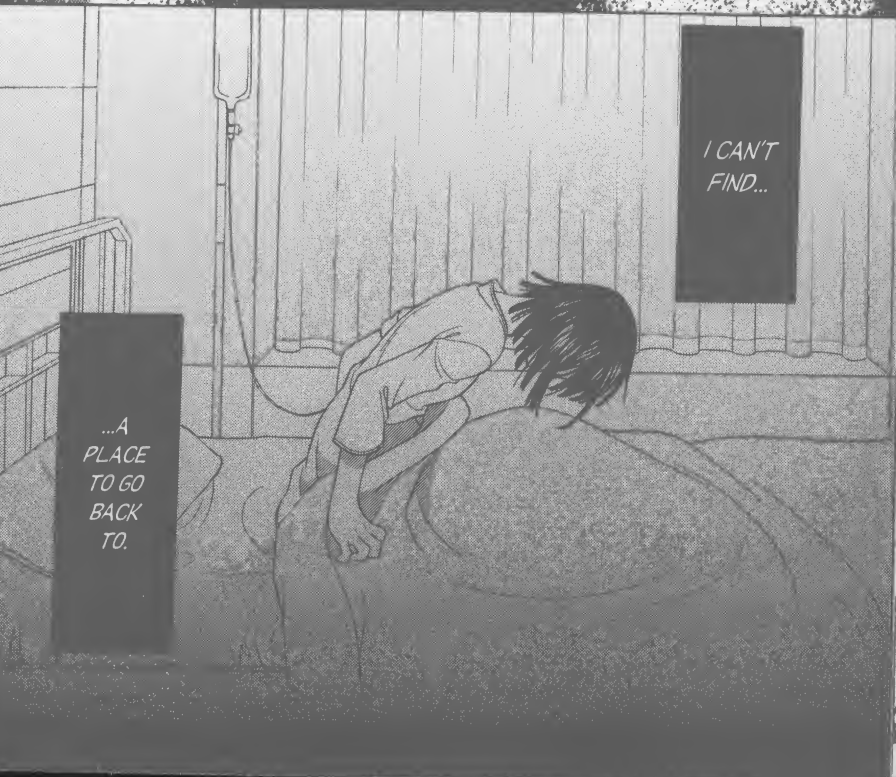
EVERYONE  
WAS  
WAITING  
FOR ME!



HELP  
ME.







I CAN'T  
FIND...

...A  
PLACE  
TO GO  
BACK  
TO.



## Chapter 106



IN THE  
CAT'S  
ROOM.

I WAS  
SLIPPED  
TO BE IN  
THERE.

I WOKE  
UP IN THE  
HOSPITAL.

WHAT  
A BAD...

A ROOM  
AS  
QUIET...

DOCTOR!  
SOHMA-  
SAN IS--

...DREAM.

...AS THE  
EDGE  
OF THE  
WORLD.

SOHMA-  
SAN?

WAS IT A  
DREAM?

BUT...BACK  
WHERE?

Knock  
Knock

HATSUHARU.

HATSUHARU,  
ARE YOU  
AWAKE?

YOU  
HAVE A  
PHONE  
CALL.

IT'S  
HATORI-  
SAN.

HATSUHARU?

AREN'T  
YOU  
THERE?

I WANT  
TO GO  
BACK.

I HAVE  
TO GO  
BACK.

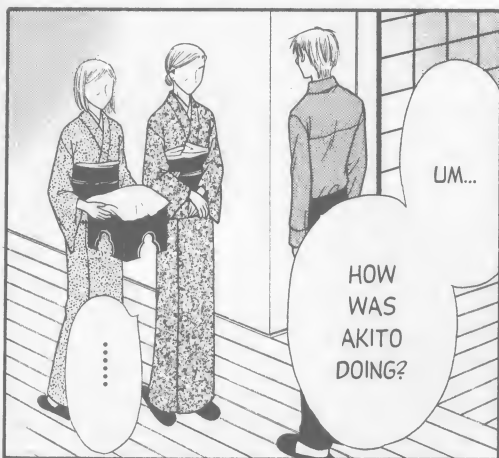
I'LL  
GO  
BACK.

DID I  
DREAM  
THAT  
I WAS  
THERE?

ISUZU  
DISAPPEARED?

AM I  
DREAMING  
THAT I'M  
HERE?

I DON'T  
KNOW.



UM...

HOW  
WAS  
AKITO  
DOING?

.....



HE SAYS  
HE DOESN'T  
WANT TO  
SEE ANYONE  
RIGHT NOW.

IT SEEMS  
HE CAN'T  
SWALLOW  
FOOD  
BECAUSE  
HIS HEART  
IS IN PAIN.



I NEED  
SOME  
PLACE...

...THAT'S  
NOT  
HERE.



The one who was finished right after the main characters (Tohru, Yuki, Kyo, and Shigure):

**Kisa.** 🐱

- With her father and mother, Kisa is in a family of three.
- She's currently a second-year in middle school. Kisa's gotten bigger, too.
- I guess I don't have much to add about Kisa anymore, either... She's lucky to be surrounded by her "big brothers." (In my very personal opinion.) The one she gets along with best is, of course, Hiro. She also gets along with Kagura.
- She's in competition for the first or second most beautiful character in Furuba. I kinda designed her that way. (This is all just "inside the world of Furuba.")
- ...I mean, like when I'm drawing the manuscript, I think of things like, "Oh yeah, it was supposed to be like this," and forget to draw her that way. (Write yourself a note...)



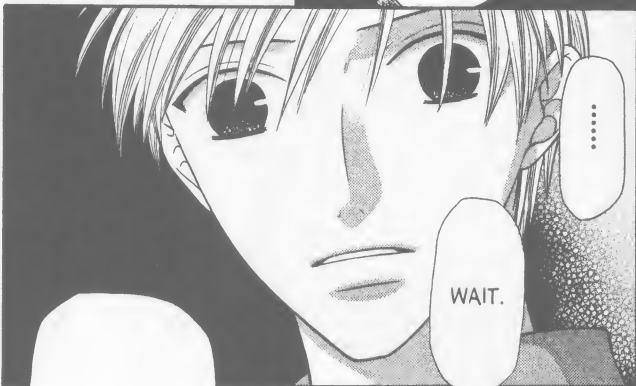
TAKING HER  
OUT OF THERE  
WITHOUT  
PERMISSION...



DIDN'T YOU  
REALIZE  
THAT THAT  
WOULD BE  
BETRAYING  
AKITO-SAN?



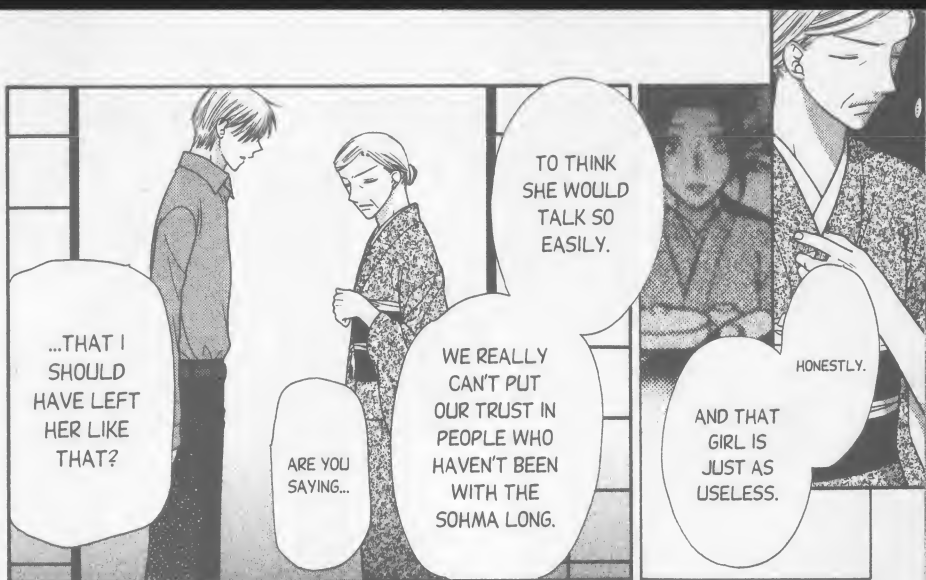
WHY DID  
YOU DO  
SUCH A  
THING?



WAIT.



YOU KNEW  
EVERYTHING?



...THAT I  
SHOULD  
HAVE LEFT  
HER LIKE  
THAT?

ARE YOU  
SAYING...

WE REALLY  
CAN'T PUT  
OUR TRUST IN  
PEOPLE WHO  
HAVEN'T BEEN  
WITH THE  
SOHMA LONG.

TO THINK  
SHE WOULD  
TALK SO  
EASILY.

HONESTLY.

AND THAT  
GIRL IS  
JUST AS  
USELESS.



IF THAT  
WAS WHAT  
AKITO-SAN  
WISHED.



YOU ARE  
THE ONE  
WHO'S  
WRONG.

YOU'RE  
WRONG.

NO!

...NO.





THAT  
AWFUL...

DISGRACEFUL...

SURELY  
YOU DON'T  
THINK THAT  
THAT GIRL  
SHOULD  
WIN?!

YOU'RE A  
MEMBER OF  
THE ZODIAC--  
ONE WHO WAS  
BORN AND LIVES  
FOR AKITO-SAN.  
HOW DARE  
YOU BETRAY  
HIM!

WHERE  
DO YOUR  
LOYALTIES  
LIE?

...WHORE!




WITHOUT  
AKITO-SAN...

YOU  
MEMBERS OF  
THE ZODIAC  
EXIST  
ONLY FOR  
AKITO-SAN.

YOU MUST  
LIVE FOR  
HIM...AND  
DIE FOR  
HIM.



"THAT'S  
WHAT..."



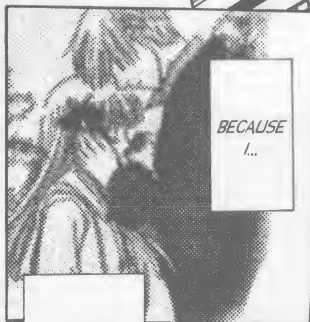
YOU'RE  
MISUNDER-  
STANDING  
THINGS,  
KURENO-  
SAN.

"...HE  
TOLD  
ME."



...YOU WOULD  
ALL BE  
MONSTERS  
LIKE THAT  
WRETCHED  
CAT!

KURENO.



BECAUSE  
I...



RIGHT.

I WANTED  
TO TALK  
TO HIM.

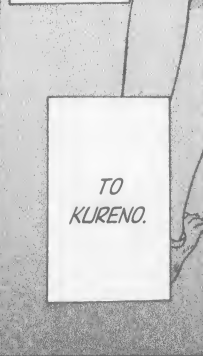


I ALMOST  
THINK...

...KURENO  
CAME  
TO THAT  
ROOM.



...I SAW  
THEM  
THAT  
DAY.



TO  
KURENO.



I  
DREAMED...

...THAT  
HE  
CARRIED  
ME.



I  
WANTED  
TO ASK  
HIM.



I WANTED  
TO GRAB  
HIM BY THE  
COLLAR...



...AND  
BEAT  
THE  
ANSWER  
OUT OF  
HIM.



YOU'RE A  
BAD GIRL,  
ISUZU-  
CHAN.



THAT  
GIRL IS SO  
SPACEY...



HE  
PROBABLY  
THOUGHT  
IT DIDN'T  
MATTER  
WHAT  
ANYONE SAID  
TO HER.

HE SAID  
WHAT HE  
HAD TO SAY  
AND THEN  
HE JUST...  
LEFT.



THAT WAS  
IT, RIGHT?

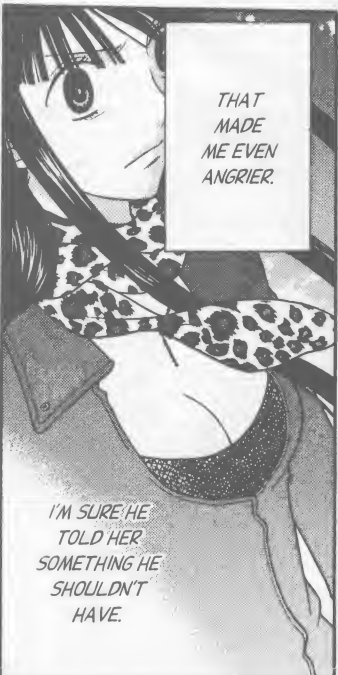


SHE  
WAS  
CRYING.

I GOT  
ANGRY.




AND THEN I  
FOLLOWED  
HIM, BUT IT  
DIDN'T DO  
ANY GOOD.




THAT  
MADE  
ME EVEN  
ANGRIER.

I'M SURE HE  
TOLD HER  
SOMETHING HE  
SHOULDN'T  
HAVE.



...ALL THE  
WAY IN  
HERE?

DID YOU  
SNEAK  
ON YOUR  
TIPPY-  
TOES...



YOU'VE BEEN  
LOOKING FOR  
SOMETHING  
FOR A LONG  
TIME.

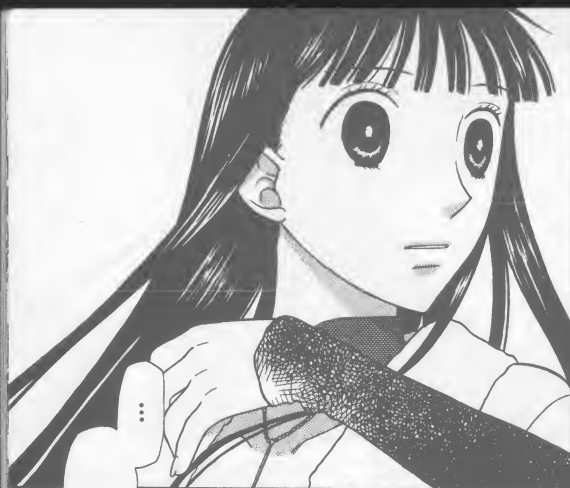
I KNOW.

HAVEN'T  
YOU,  
ISUZU-  
CHAN?

I  
KNOW.

MAYBE  
I CAN  
HELP  
YOU.

I  
WONDER...



I WANT...

...TO SEE  
KURENO.



.....



TO  
BREAK  
THE  
ZODIAC  
CURSE?

DO YOU  
KNOW...

...A  
WAY?

REN-SAN.

"IT'S SO  
WONDERFULLY  
HAPPY."

"YOU HAVE  
SUCH A  
HAPPY  
HOME."

"DON'T  
YOU,  
ISUZU-  
CHAN?"





ALL  
RIGHT?

...THEN  
I'LL TELL  
YOU.

I WANT  
SOMETHING  
THAT'S  
RIGHTFULLY  
MINE.

IT'S...



....!

DO  
YOU--?

IF YOU  
GRANT  
MY  
WISH...





HIDDEN...

I CAN'T  
GET NEAR  
THE  
PLACE.

THEY  
KEEP VERY  
STRICT  
WATCH  
OVER ME.

BUT YOU,  
ISUZU-CHAN,  
MIGHT HAVE  
A CHANCE.

IT'S IN  
AKITO'S  
ROOM.

...WHAT?

KNOWING  
HIM...

HE COULDN'T  
PUT IT IN  
A CORNER  
OR WHERE  
SOMEONE  
COULD  
SEE IT.

HE  
WOULD  
HAVE  
HIDDEN IT.

BEHIND  
A DOOR,  
MAYBE.





...SHE'LL  
TELL ME  
HOW TO  
BREAK  
THE  
CURSE.

THIS  
IS IT.

IF I  
GIVE  
IT TO  
HER...



HARU.

I CAN...



A  
TREASURE.



I CAN  
FREE  
YOU,  
HARU.



MAMA  
WAS...?

THEY  
WERE  
REALLY  
MAD.

AKITO  
WAS  
MAD?

AKITO  
WAS  
LIKE...

...  
MAMA.

I'M  
SCARED.

I DON'T  
EVER  
WANT TO  
SEE YOUR  
FACE  
AGAIN.

OH...

WHAT  
WOULD YOU  
PREFER?  
GOING  
"OUTSIDE" ...

I GET  
IT.

WHEN  
MAMA  
GOT  
MAD.

I KNOW.

...OR  
HATSUHARU'S  
EYES BEING  
GOUGED OUT?





*DON'T  
DO IT.*

*I'LL  
STAY  
HERE.*

*STOP.*

*DO YOU  
WANT TO  
TEST  
ME?*

*DO YOU  
THINK I'M  
BLUFFING?*

*I'LL STAY  
HERE  
FOR THE  
REST OF  
MY LIFE.*

*HARU...*

*I'M  
SORRY.*

*IT WAS MY  
CHANCE TO  
FIND OUT HOW  
TO BREAK  
THE CURSE.*

*...DO A  
SINGLE  
THING  
RIGHT.*

*I CAN'T...*

*BUT IT  
WAS ALL  
WORTHLESS.*  
  
*I'M  
WORTHLESS.*

...SOMEONE  
LIKE ME.

YOU REALLY  
DON'T NEED...



HM?

BUT  
DO YOU  
REALLY  
KNOW,  
MADAM?

HOW TO  
BREAK THE  
CURSE, I  
MEAN.



REALLY,  
NOW.


HOW COULD  
I POSSIBLY  
KNOW  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT?



OH,  
MY.


IS THAT  
WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO ISUZU-  
CHAN?

IT'S NO WONDER  
THERE'S NO  
SIGN THAT MY  
WISH WILL  
BE GRANTED.




WORTHLESS  
CHILDREN  
REALLY  
ARE JUST  
WORTHLESS.

BUT I  
THOUGHT  
SHE MIGHT  
BE A LITTLE  
MORE  
USEFUL.



I ALWAYS  
DID DESPISE  
THAT GIRL.

I KNEW  
IT.



INSTINCTIVELY,  
YOU KNOW?

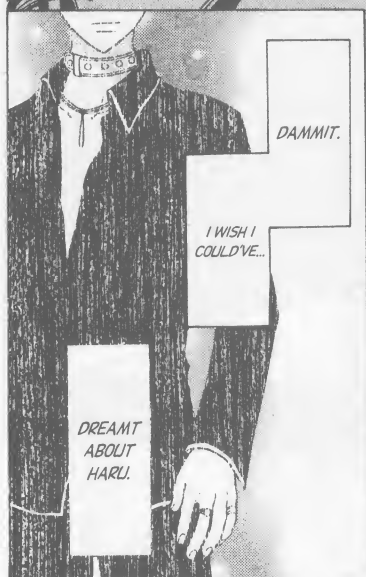




I  
REALLY...

...WAS  
HERE.

WAIT.



DAMMIT.

I WISH I  
COULD'VE...

DREAMT  
ABOUT  
HARU.



WERE THEY  
THE DREAM?

WERE KURENO  
AND THE  
HOSPITAL  
A DREAM?







DAMMIT.



I AM  
WORTHLESS.



I WISH.

I COULD'VE  
DREAMT  
ABOUT  
CRYING...

...TO KIND,  
GENTLE  
HARU.



...  
HARU?



I'M  
DREAMING  
ABOUT  
HARU!



...HARU.

ITS...



"HLNH."

"THEN  
THAT  
MEANS..."

"...YOUR  
JOURNEY'S  
OVER."

...YEAH.

I'M  
SORRY!

I-I'M  
SORRY.

IT WAS  
WORTH-  
LESS.

I  
COULDN'T  
FIND IT.

I  
COULDN'T  
...

...FIND  
YOUR  
HAPPI-  
NESS...

...HARU.



"LISTEN."

"IF YOUR  
JOURNEY'S  
OVER..."



"SO LONELY I  
WON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO DO  
WITH MYSELF."

"...AND  
YOU DON'T  
COME BACK  
TO ME..."

"...I'LL GET  
LONELY."



...KIND,  
GENTLE  
HARU.



REALLY?



TO YOU,  
HARU.


...I'LL BE  
GOING  
BACK  
SOON.

THEN I  
GUESS...



"THEN..."


"...WELCOME  
HOME."



I WISH I  
COULD'VE  
GONE BACK.

WOW.

WHAT A  
WONDERFUL  
DREAM...



THIS ISN'T  
A DREAM.

I'M AMAZED  
YOU COULD  
EVEN WALK  
THIS FAR.

I LOOKED  
EVERYWHERE  
FOR YOU.

IN YOUR  
CONDITION  
AND ALL.

EVERYONE'S  
WORRIED.





YOU'RE  
NOT A  
BURDEN.

OKAY?

LOOK.

THAT'S  
WHY I  
WON'T  
GIVE UP  
ON YOU.

JUST WALK TO  
THE PLACES YOU  
CAN WALK TO  
BY YOURSELF...

...AND LET  
YOURSELF BE  
CARRIED WHEN  
YOU CAN'T.

I'D  
RATHER  
CARRY  
YOU.

YOU'RE  
NOT A  
BURDEN.



THE END...



YEAH?

HA...

RU...

HA...

...OF A  
LONG  
JOURNEY.



YEAH?

HARU...



I'M...  
HOME.

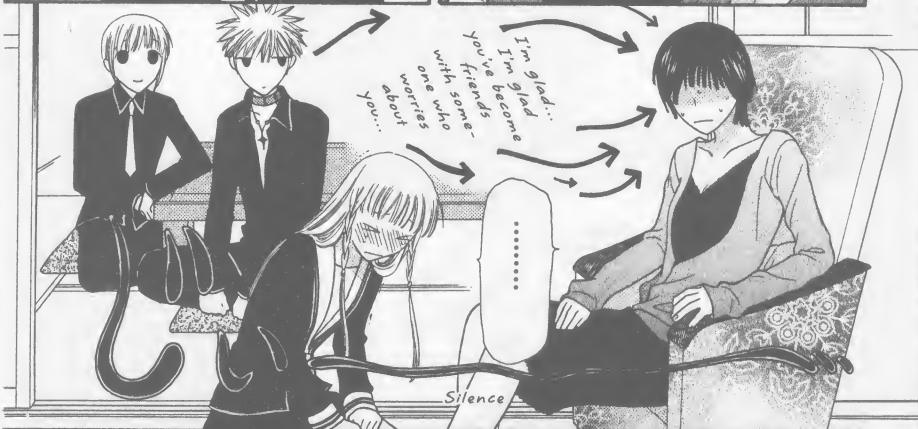
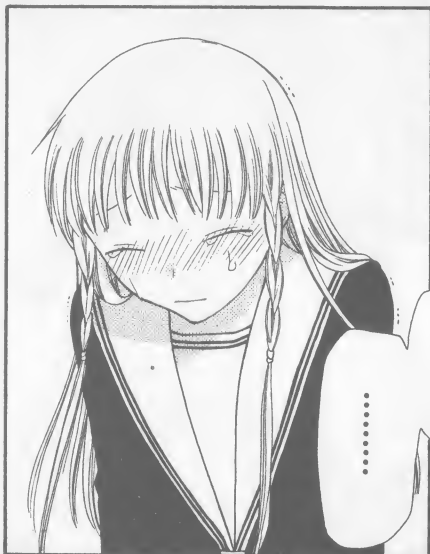



WELCOME  
HOME.





## Chapter 107





HOW LONG  
ARE YOU  
GONNA SIT  
IN FRONT OF  
ME, SOBBING  
YOUR LITTLE  
EYES OUT?!

*It's  
depressing!*

Y-YES!

*She's  
shy...*


HARU,  
PLEASE.  
STARING TOO  
MUCH WILL  
JUST PUT  
PRESSURE  
ON HER.

YES!

DON'T  
CRY!



F-  
friend...



IT'S UNUSUAL  
FOR ISUZU  
TO SPEAK AT  
QUITE THAT  
VOLUME.

MAYBE  
SHE'S IN  
HIGH SPIRITS  
BECAUSE HER  
FRIEND CAME  
TO SEE HER?

SHISHOU-  
SAN.

We should stop her!

BUT THAT'S NOT--

Yeah.

THEY SEEM TO GET ALONG.

Grind めし めし Grind めし Grind

ISUZU-SAN CAME BACK.

SHE WON'T TELL ME ANY DETAILS...

ALTHOUGH SHE DID SAY SHE WAS IN A HOSPITAL FAR AWAY.

Would you like some mochi?

Mr. Thanks

...I JUST CUT IT BECAUSE IT WAS ANNOYING.

QUIT STARING AT IT.







It's very warm today!

"A WAY...  
TO BREAK  
THE  
CURSE."

"I WONDER  
IF IT  
REALLY...  
DOESN'T  
EXIST."

"TO  
BREAK  
THE  
ZODIAC  
CURSE?"

"REN-SAN."

"DO YOU  
KNOW A  
WAY?"

NOW, LIKE  
THIS...

BUT JUST  
HAVING  
HER HERE.

ALL  
RIGHT.

Then  
would  
you like  
to walk  
through  
the  
garden?



SHE DOES  
SEEM  
TO HATE  
HOSPITALS  
AND THE  
MAIN ESTATE.

...IF WE FORCED  
HER TO GO  
BACK, SHE  
MIGHT JUST  
DITCH AGAIN.

OF  
COURSE.

SO SHE CAN  
RECUPERATE  
HERE WITH  
YOU FOR A  
BIT, SHIHAN?

WE'LL KEEP  
HER HERE  
FOR NOW.

...



SHE DOESN'T  
WANT HONDA-  
SAN TO HEAR  
THINGS SHE  
DOESN'T  
HAVE TO.



SHE SAID  
SHE  
DOESN'T  
WANT  
US...

...TO  
TELL  
HONDA-  
SAN.



SHE  
WAS...

BY  
AKITO.

LOCKED  
UP, RIGHT?



AND HER  
HAIR...



I DON'T  
WANNA  
MAKE HER  
DEAL WITH  
HIM, EITHER.

AND I...



THERE WAS  
NO PLACE FOR  
ME TO STEP  
IN AND CHEER  
YOU UP.

YOU  
WERE  
QUICK TO  
DECIDE  
ALL  
THIS.



MM.

YOU  
KNOW,  
HARU...

YOU'RE  
REALLY  
SOME-  
THING.



AND  
FORGET  
AKITO.

WE DON'T  
HAVE TO SAY  
ANYTHING  
ELSE TO HIM,  
EITHER.



SHE'S  
SCARED OF  
GETTING  
MIXED UP  
WITH HIM  
AGAIN.



I ALREADY  
SHOW HER  
WITH MY  
ATTITUDE.

Is that  
right? Oh,  
thank you  
for the  
food!

By  
the way,  
Hatsu-  
haru.  
May I  
ask some-  
thing?



PLEASE SAVE  
THOSE LINES  
FOR RIN.

IT'S OKAY...  
I LOVE  
YOU.



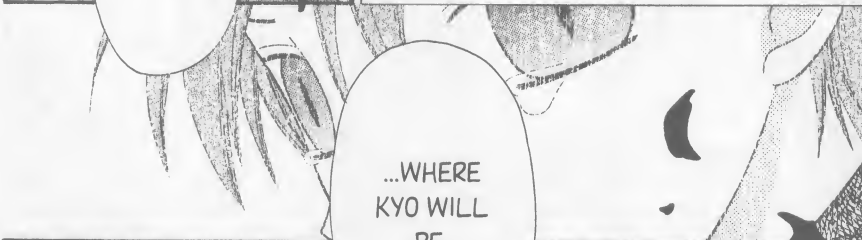
WHERE  
EXACTLY...

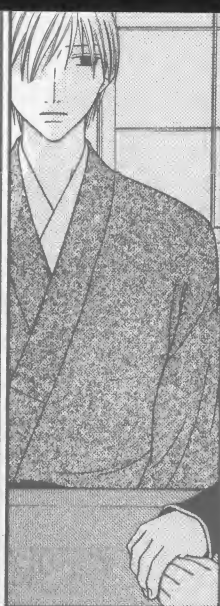
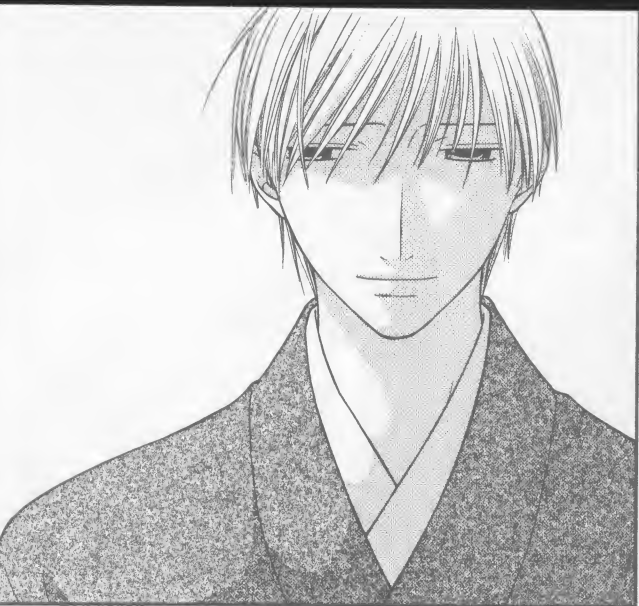
...WAS ISUZU  
LOCKED  
AWAY?



IN THE  
CAT'S...







HONDA-SAN WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

I DIDN'T ASK THEM TO.



MORE THAN ANY OF THE SOHMAS.

AMAZING, HUH?



OKAY.

IT'S NICE THAT EVERYONE CAME TO SEE YOU TODAY, HUH?

I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.

BYE.



Has a ton of romance, even more than the main characters (or, rather, regardless of them):

Hatsuharu. 

- With his father and mother, Haru's in a family of three.
- Again, there's nothing really left to add about Haru.
- And to try and explain him, when he lives with his own unique set of values...maybe that would just be meaningless? (laughs)
- He likes to make his own accessories. It's a trait that he was designed with. The various accessories Haru and Rin wear were actually handmade by Haru.
- It's a trait that I couldn't bring up... (There are mountains of those.)
- The indiscernible (oi) pattern on his left arm is tentatively a tattoo.
- I often forget to draw it...

AND  
KURENO.

ACK--IT'S  
NOTHING  
LIKE THAT!

NOW EVEN RIN  
CAN KNOW THE  
WARMTH OF  
FRIENDSHIP.

YOU'RE  
STUBBORN  
ABOUT THE  
WEIRDEST  
THINGS, HARU!



I WANNA  
THANK  
HIM, TOO.

HE RESCUED  
YOU FROM  
THAT  
PLACE.

HE MUST'VE  
KNOWN  
THAT AKITO  
WOULD  
ATTACK  
HIM FOR IT.

Person who  
thought,  
rather than  
apologize,  
that she'd  
like to hit  
him.







I DLINNO.

"GO. AND  
DON'T  
COME  
BACK."

AND...

IF HE  
HADN'T  
SAID  
THAT TO  
ME...

"DON'T GO,  
HATSU HARU!"



RIN...

DON'T DO  
ANYTHING  
RECKLESS  
ON YOUR OWN  
ANYMORE.

HEY.



!...

MAYBE IT  
WOULD'VE  
ENDED...



...WITH  
ME  
LETTING  
RIN GO.



NO  
MATTER  
THE  
REASON.

JUST  
DON'T.

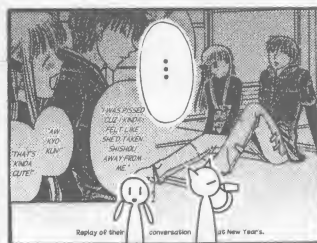
OKAY?



Hee hee.

HE DOES!

SHISHOU  
LIKES  
DOING  
THINGS FOR  
PEOPLE.



"AN  
AND  
ALM"  
THAT'S  
"SHE'S  
OUT?"

YAMASAKI  
SAY  
"I  
WAS  
TALKING  
TO  
YOU  
BEFORE"  
SHE'S  
TALKING  
TO  
SHISHOU  
ABOUT  
HANA  
FROM  
HIS  
P.O.V.

Replay of their conversation at New Year's.



MAN.

IT LOOKS LIKE  
SHISHOU'S  
JUST GONNA  
LET ISUZU  
LIVE HERE.

I THINK HE  
HAS GOOD  
REASON TO!



I GUESS IT'S  
GOOD THAT  
SHISHOU'S  
HOUSE IS  
FILLING UP.

Y'KNOW?

Was  
that  
weird  
...?

Although...  
I don't  
think  
Hana-chan  
will stop...



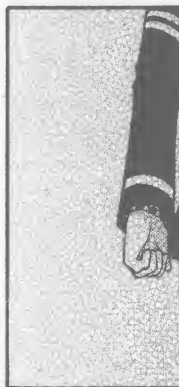
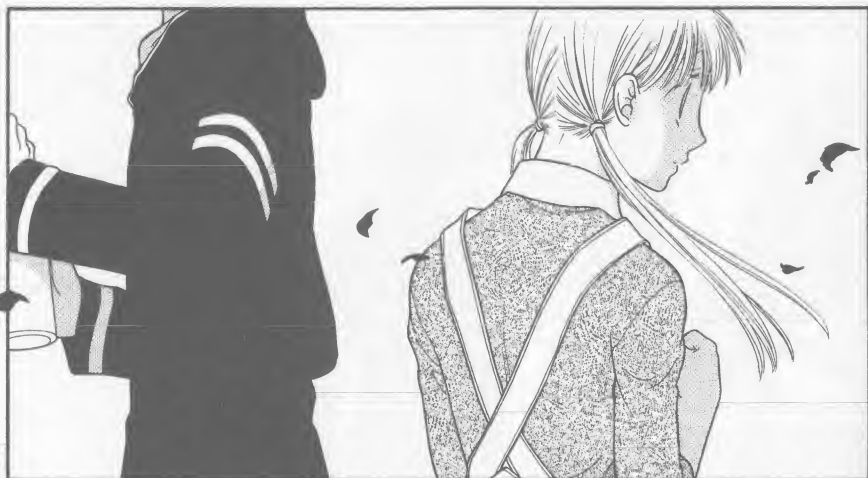
SO SHISHOU  
WON'T GET  
LONELY  
DOWN THE  
LINE.

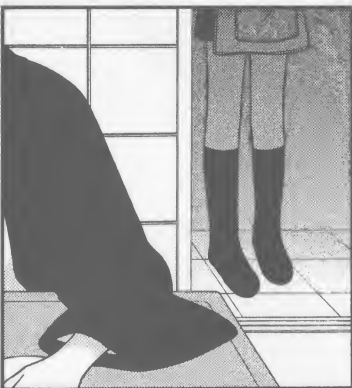


THERE'S  
NOTHING FOR  
YOU TO WORRY  
ABOUT, KYO-  
KUN! SHISHOU-  
SAN ONLY HAS  
EYES FOR YOU!

IT...WASN'T  
LIKE I WAS  
WORRIED  
ABOUT IT.  
DON'T SAY  
WEIRD THINGS  
LIKE THAT.

YOU ARE  
HIS LIFE!







IF YOU  
DON'T TAKE  
IT EASY, I'M  
TELLING.



IF I'M  
HOLDING  
STILL...



HEY,  
KUNIMITSU!

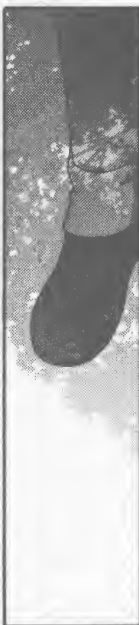
LEMME  
DO THE  
CLEANING.

Agh!  
WHAT'RE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT?  
HATORI-SAN JUST  
TOLD YOU THAT  
YOU STILL NEED  
TO LIE DOWN.



GOOD  
LORD.

THAT  
WAS A  
DISASTER.



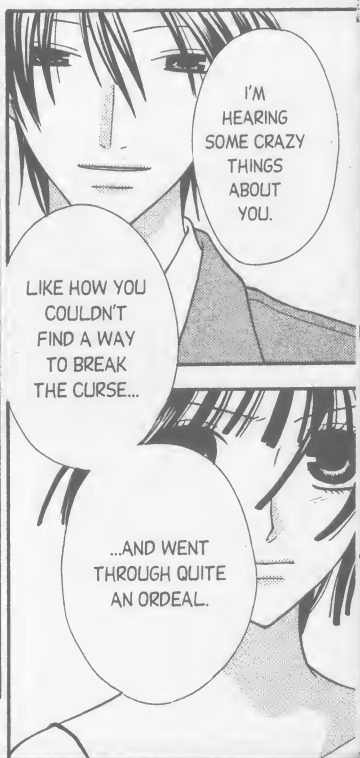
...MY  
FEELINGS  
GET ANTSY.

I  
MEAN...



WHAT  
DO I DO  
NOW?









SHE WAS  
SUPPOSED  
TO TELL  
ME.

REN-  
SAN  
WAS--



BUT  
NOW  
...

I...

*"JUST  
DON'T."*



REN-SAN?

YEAH. SHE  
PROMISED.

AS LONG AS  
I DID WHAT  
SHE ASKED  
ME TO.



I  
BROUGHT  
A GIFT.



IT  
JUST...  
WENT  
BAD.

I WAS  
SUPPOSED  
TO LEARN  
A WAY.



SHE  
WOULDN'T  
KNOW  
ANYTHING  
LIKE THAT.

REN-SAN  
WAS GOING  
TO TELL  
YOU?



SHE HAS  
THAT  
PARENT-  
CHILD  
CONFLICT  
WITH  
AKITO-SAN  
AND ALL.

SHE  
PULLED  
A FAST  
ONE ON  
YOU.

AND WAS  
USING YOU,  
PROBABLY.



OH,  
PLEASE.

SHE WAS  
LYING  
THROUGH  
HER TEETH.



YOU'RE  
LYING.



REALLY  
GOOD  
FRIENDS.

WE'RE  
GOOD  
FRIENDS.

BUT I DO  
KNOW  
REN-SAN  
BETTER  
THAN  
YOU DO.

YOU  
DON'T  
HAVE TO  
BELIEVE  
ME.

I DIDN'T JUST  
COME HERE  
TODAY TO  
GIVE YOU A  
HARD TIME.

YOUR  
EFFORTS  
PROVED  
FRUITLESS,  
BUT YOU  
TRIED YOUR  
BEST.

I CAN  
SYMPATHIZE  
WITH THAT.  
SO I THOUGHT  
I'D TELL YOU  
SOMETHING  
GOOD.



...REALLY  
GOOD  
FRIENDS.



RIN.



LISTEN.

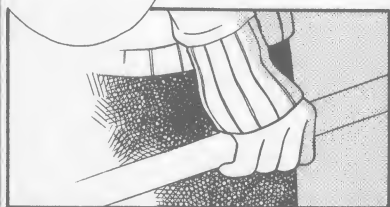
IT'S  
ABOUT...


...OUR  
CURSE.



RELAX. JUST  
ASKING ME ISN'T  
ANY REASON  
TO GET YOUR  
GUARD UP, HM?

WHAT  
...?





YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO  
BE SO  
DESPERATE.

IT DOES  
BREAK.

EVEN IF  
YOU LEAVE  
IT ALONE...

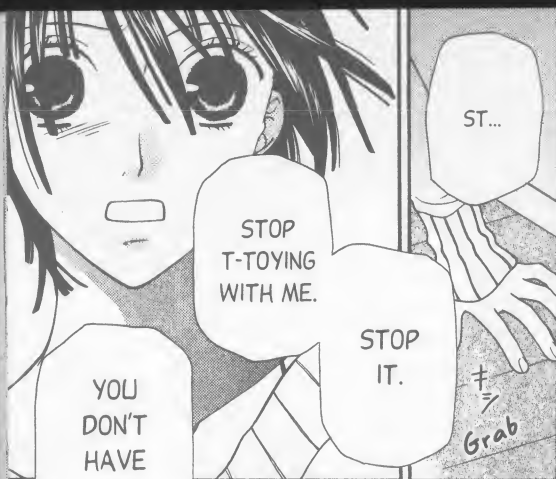
BELIEVE  
ME.

IT'S  
ALREADY  
STARTING  
TO FALL  
APART.

I  
MEAN...

...THAT  
PROMISE, THAT  
BOND, IS FROM  
A LONG, LONG  
TIME AGO.

...IT'LL HAPPEN  
EVENTUALLY.



YOU  
DON'T  
HAVE  
ANY  
PROOF!

STOP  
T-TOYING  
WITH ME.

STOP  
IT.

ST...

Grab

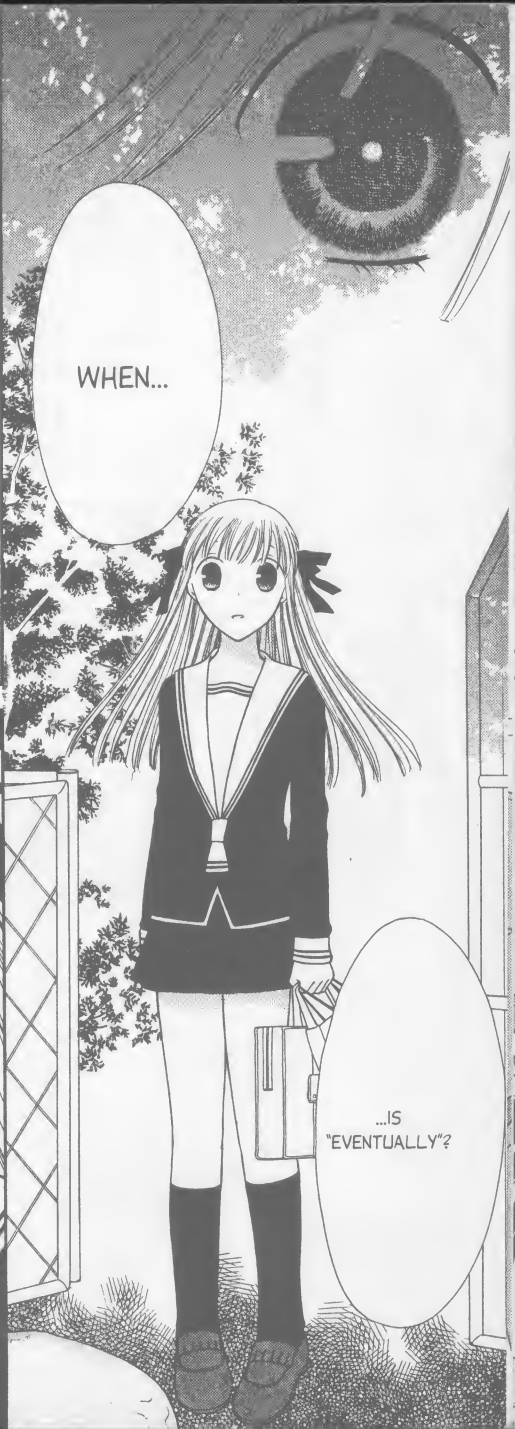



THE DAY  
WE'RE FREE  
WILL COME  
EVENTUALLY.

COME  
ON.

WE ARE  
THE  
MEMBERS  
OF THE  
ZODIAC...

...WHO  
WERE  
INVITED TO  
THE FINAL  
BANQUET.





IT BEATS  
BEING THIS  
WAY FOR  
FOREVER,  
DAMMIT!

EVENTUALLY,  
SOMEDAY,  
WHATEVER!

IF IT WILL  
BREAK, AND  
WE'LL BE  
FREE, THEN  
THAT'S GOOD  
ENOUGH  
FOR ME!

BUT  
THAT'S  
NO  
GOOD!



WHAT?  
NO  
GOOD?

IF HE'S  
TELLING  
THE  
TRUTH,  
THEN--

BUT IT'S ONLY  
"EVENTUALLY"!



THE  
SPRING...

IF IT'S  
NOT BY  
THEN...



IF IT'S NOT  
BY THEN,  
THEN THAT'S  
NO GOOD!

IT HAS TO  
BE BROKEN  
BEFORE NEXT  
SPRING!





KYO-KUN...!



KYO-  
KUN.



KYO-KUN  
WILL...




OF ALL  
PEOPLE...?

KYO?

"SO SHISHOU  
WON'T GET  
LONELY DOWN  
THE LINE."

"Y'KNOW?"



HAS HE  
ALREADY  
DECIDED...

DID HE  
SAY THOSE  
WORDS...

IF HE...

EVEN UN-  
CONSCIOUS-  
LY...

IF HE'D  
CONTINUED  
WITH "EVEN  
WHEN  
I'M NOT  
AROUND"...

...BECAUSE  
HIS HEART...

...THAT  
HE'LL  
BE  
GOING  
AWAY?

IT'S  
SO...  
SAD.

...HAS  
ALREADY  
GONE?



AND  
LONELY.



IT'S  
SO  
SAD.



I'M  
SO...  
SAD.





*DON'T  
GO!...*

*To Be Continued in Volume 19...*

*I feel so  
grateful!*

〇"

We are  
grateful.

Harada-sama, Araki-sama,  
Mother-sama, Editor-sama.

And everyone who reads  
and supports this manga.

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a pot ...!

高屋 奈月でした。"  
Natsuki Takaya.

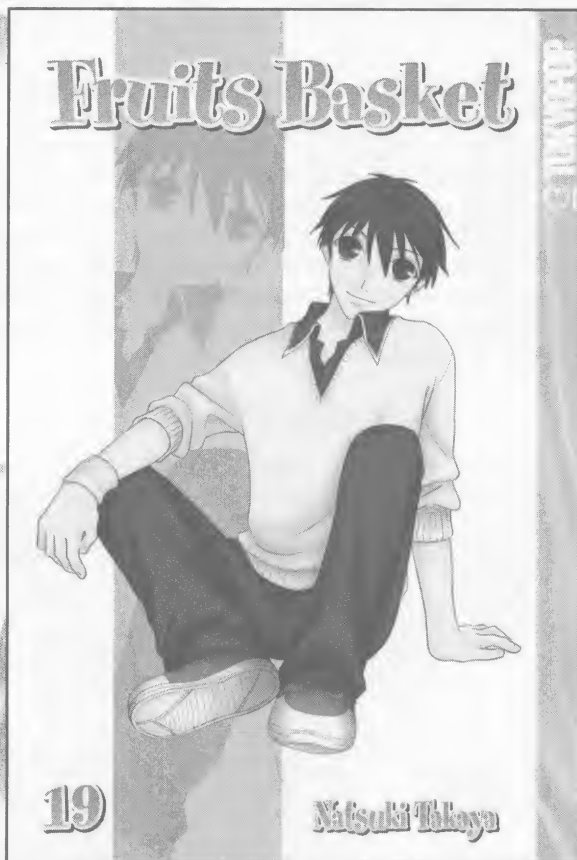
\*Or "nabe," short for "Manabe (Kakeru)"







Next time in...



### Cat Got Your Tongue?

As the *Fruits Basket* saga continues, the relationship between Tohru and Kyo becomes increasingly complicated, especially since most of the members of the Zodiac seem to look down on him. Tohru comes to the realization that if she wants to save Kyo, she'll have to create some sort of trigger to break his curse. Meanwhile, poor Yuki flees the house...because he can't stand watching Tohru and Kyo together!

**Fruits Basket Volume 19**  
Available March 2008